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MARCH/APRIL 1999

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March • April 1999
Volume 49 • Number 3

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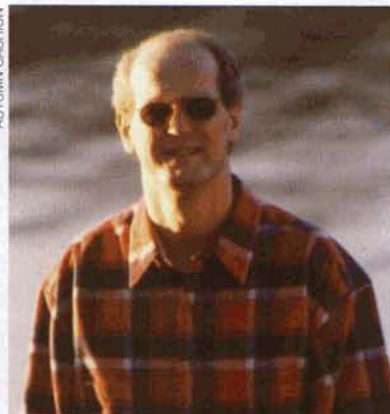
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Cover: Charons Garden in the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, photograph by Michael Hardeman
This page: A field of Indian Blanket wildflowers in the refuge, photograph by Michael Hardeman



Sand Springs native **Michael Hardeman** has spent the last six years focusing his lens on Oklahoma's best landscapes. Hardeman, photographer of this issue's Portfolio (page 22), originally sought out locations like Yosemite and Mt. Rainer National Park but now prefers his home state views. "The one thing I hear the most often is, 'I didn't know there were places like this in Oklahoma,'" he says. "That makes me realize I've actually accomplished something with the camera besides just pretty pictures."

AUTUMN CASHION



"Our goal for Black Book was to motivate our readers to travel and then offer great spots for them to hit while on the road," says associate editor **Aimée Downs**, who compiled the travel directory (page 31) for this issue. "Now, after all is said and done, I can't wait to get out and see more of Oklahoma." Downs says the research for this story was as fun as it was challenging. "The hardest part was deciding what to *exclude* from each category. The entries could have gone on and on." Downs has been with *Oklahoma Today* for three years but still calls herself a Texan.



Leading us on a tour of Charons Garden in the Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge is Norman resident **Gary Lantz**. Outdoorsman that he is, Lantz was the perfect writer for "Garden of Stone" (page 58), an essay recounting his many years of hiking through the rugged territory. Besides *Oklahoma Today*, Lantz has written for a slew of other magazines including *Backpacker*, *Southern Outdoors*, and *Sierra Bassmaster*.

OKLAHOMA TODAY

Official Magazine of the State of Oklahoma

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FROM THE EDITOR



Spring Fever

IN A COUNTRY DEFINED ENTIRELY BY THE CONCEPT OF LIBERTY, TRAVEL IS freedom's natural companion. To simply go, wherever that may be, drives many of our weekday routines. A sixteen year old, anticipating the all-powerful driver's license, values this freedom maybe more than anyone. How many times have I filled my car with gas, looked in my wallet for a few bucks, and set out for a day on the road? This Travel Issue, designed as a tool for the reader, celebrates that desire to leave the real world behind, get in your car, and go, whether you seek comfort in familiar getaways or adventure in the unknown.

Simply working on the issue excited staff members across the board. In our art director Steven Walker's windowless loft, the magazine's editors and designers spent hours sorting through beautiful images of Oklahoma vistas. Canoes ready to be launched into not-so-distant lakes beckoned to each of us as we recalled aloud our own canoeing trips. Quaint coffee houses offered glimpses of respite from the work at hand. Photographs of farmers' markets signaled lazy Sundays and the promise of spring. During the final days of deadline week, someone could always be heard—while making last-minute edits—chatting enthusiastically about an upcoming trip to Quebec, to Austin, to an afternoon in the Tallgrass Prairie. Anticipation prevailed; the possibilities were endless.



When I first moved back to Oklahoma from New York fifteen months ago to assume the editorship of *Oklahoma Today*, I spent more time on the magazine's day-to-day editorial process and management than on discovering the actual state around me. I worked in the office most evenings and weekends, and my parents' home in Enid—as much as I love to go there—became my standard weekend escape (and yet, who can argue with a mother who brings you coffee and orange juice each morning?). But last summer, I left the comfort of hometown weekends and ventured down to the raucous McAlester Prison Rodeo. In the fall, I took fly-fishing excursions with my boyfriend to the Mountain Fork River in the southeastern part of the state. On New Year's Eve, we popped the cork on a bottle of champagne at the base of Mount Scott near Lawton.

The Travel Issue has offered a breath of fresh air for each of us at *Oklahoma Today*, one we hope is evident in the following pages. Read each day trip (page 42) and come up with your own favorite excursion. Write it down and send it to me; maybe we'll publish your suggestion in next year's issue. Also, take our recommendations in this first-ever Black Book (page 31), adapt them to fit your wanderlust, and keep us posted on day spas or hard-to-find traveler services we might not know about. More than anything, grab the wheel of life with its many freedoms—they're yours for the taking.

Laura McCune

mccune@oklahomatoday.com

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MEMORY-BILIA

Your article "Box-Office Buckaroos" (January-February) was very good and brings back memories of my Roy Rogers outfit, lunch box, and other goodies. I wore out two Gene Autry billfolds in my growing up years in Picher. Their movies were a sight to behold at the matinee. If you were lucky enough to live in a town with two movie houses, you could see four features for a quarter, all on a Saturday afternoon.

Frank D. Wood
Port Arthur, Texas

I have only subscribed to *Oklahoma Today* for a few months, but I have thoroughly enjoyed the articles and photographs. I recently celebrated my seventy-fifth birthday, and I am so proud that while I lived in an oil camp in Bristow during the Depression, my parents took me to see celebrities mentioned in your magazine. I remember driving to the north edge of Bristow, where we sat in the car and watched the L.A. to New York marathon you called "The Bunion Derby" (May-June 1998).

"Box-Office Buckaroos," the article on Tom Mix, also hit home. He performed in Bristow along with his horse Tony. I remember him shooting out the lights. I had played cowboy and Indians and felt that I knew him. Thanks to your magazine for bringing back some favorite memories.

Donna Copeland Branscum
Bristow

HATS OFF

As a subscriber, I enjoyed reading "Stockyard a la Carte" (January-February). I was born and raised in Caddo County, went to college in Oklahoma, and spent many young adult years as an Okie. I still consider Oklahoma my home. I am proud of the state, and I respect its people, who have a great culture to offer to the world.

During a visit to Texas about fifteen years ago, I was very surprised (actually a little bit shocked) when I entered a res-

taurant and saw all the local menfolk sitting in the restaurant eating their meals while wearing their western style hats. When I was young, I was taught that when one entered a restaurant the hat was always removed. This was said to be a sign of respect, or of thankfulness for the food. I regret to see this custom is no longer practiced. I do truly respect these cowboys as gentlemen, and I know they intend no disrespect in any manner. Please remember—I take my hat off to them.

Keep up your outstanding leadership in giving us the excellent *Oklahoma Today*.

Terry Patton
Florissant, Missouri



A COLLEAGUE COMPLIMENTS

Like many Oklahomans, I think the state suffers an image problem. Outsiders, if they know us at all, usually get their information from a media that tends to concentrate on the negative. But within the media also lies solutions, *Oklahoma Today*. Oklahoma needs advocates, and I'm proud to hold up this magazine as a symbol of the state. I notice your letters have addresses from all points of the country. This attractive, quality magazine gives those readers a positive image. It exudes talent and class with outstanding writing, photos, and design. My compliments on a job well done.

H.L. Jones
Metro Journal
Oklahoma City

ANOTHER VIEW

My wife and I have been subscribers for many years and always delight in your stories and photography. The Year

in Review 1998 issue arrived yesterday, and as usual, we almost always have a battle over who gets to read it first.

This issue is as positive for Oklahoma as it is informative—with the exception of the tacky little paragraph on page 32 concerning Lieutenant Governor Mary Fallin. Rather than having an article discussing the very credible job she has done for the state, you had to drop in the negative concerning her personal life. All of us who live in Oklahoma are quite aware of the dirt that has been slung regarding her marital situation. Those who live out of state probably do not know Mary Fallin and certainly would have no interest in her personal life.

Trent Wood
Tulsa

We agree that Mary Fallin does a terrific job representing Oklahoma. In fact, her name is on this very masthead as the chair of our Tourism and Recreation Commission. However, news of her divorce proceedings did receive national media coverage; we felt we would be remiss if we did not include the fact in our Year in Review issue.

TABLE ART

I really enjoy your magazine! I always look forward to receiving each issue. There are no certain topics I enjoy more than others—you seem to cover everything so well, so professionally and accurately. These magazines provide my "coffee-table" library, and all of my friends enjoy them, too!

Caren Collins
Drumright

Corrections: The image of an oil well on page 35 of the Year in Review 1998 was taken by David Fitzgerald. Also, on page 62, Ryan Minor is identified as a pitcher; baseball fans know he's a third baseman.

Oklahoma Today welcomes the views of readers. Letters are subject to editing and must include name, address, and a daytime phone number. Send letters to: Oklahoma Today, Attn. Editor, P.O. Box 53384, Oklahoma City, OK 73152, or fax to (405) 522-4588. Address electronic mail to letters@oklahomatoday.com.



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BY KELLY CROW

THE ULTIMATE PICNIC

How to Spark a Little Romance and Even More Ant Envy

GRAPES OF WORTH

"Oklahomans used to grow a lot of good grapes, but Prohibition nearly killed all that," says Robert Bartunek, who started a vine revival southwest of Enid by planting eight grape varieties in 1990. The Robert Bartunek Winery now sells 1,600 gallons a year. Caney's Cimarron Cellars, the first commercial vineyard and winery since the state went wet, continues to branch beyond Sooner Red and Oklahoma Gold with fruit wines. Bartunek's Cabernet Sauvignon, \$12.50, (580) 233-6337; Sooner Red and Oklahoma Gold, \$5.50, (580) 889-5997.

CHECKERED REPAST

With some wine and cheese, you may just conjure up enough *joie de vivre* to make even the French blush. This checkered marble cheese board with matching knife by Centrum, \$48. C.M. Miller in Enid, (580) 233-2672.



DAVID G. FITZGERALD & ASSOCIATES



IN STITCHES

The grass may be greener, but a quilt makes a picnic cozier by far. Leonard and Norma Stevenson stock their Guthrie store, Quilted Classics, with hand-stitched quilts. Patterns vary from the contemporary Dutch Meadow to this more traditional Gingham Patch, \$160. (405) 282-5439 or www.quiltedclassics.com.

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Roman Spring's travel candle in a handy silver tin lets you spark a flame anywhere without leaving behind a waxy mess, \$10.50. Oklahoma City's Route 66, (405) 848-6166.



POETRY IN EMOTION

Shakespeare may have been lord of the sonnet, but two Oklahoma poets prove love still inspires a measure of meters. *The Elizabethan Sequence* (Council Oak) by William Kistler, \$11.95. *Smoldering* (Epicurean) by Wendell Graham, \$17.95. Available at Full Circle Bookstore, Oklahoma City, (405) 842-2900.



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Forget those picnic baskets with winged lids or nerdy dish-holding straps: this wicker creation from Hobby Lobby Creative Centers carries more style and just as much food. (Selection is also a breeze, as the Oklahoma business buys more than a million baskets a year for its 182 stores across eighteen states.) \$39.99. (888) 694-6229 or www.hobbylobby.com.

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When putting a cork in it just won't do, try these metal wine stoppers by Delia. Each one is a little different, which keeps them hot commodities at Route 66. \$24 each. (405) 848-6166.



MAKE A TOAST

Wine just tastes better when sipped from these structurally-engineered crystal Riedel glasses. Even the *New York Times* calls them "remarkable." Glasses sell for a modest \$15 up to an indulgent \$87.50, but Charla Miller of C.M. Miller prefers Vinum, Riedel's line in the middle price range. Vinum Bordeaux, \$25 each. (580) 233-2672.



LET THEM EAT DESSERT

Williamsburg is known for dishware, but its new Mottahedeh line really takes the cake. This Duke of Gloucester dessert plate was actually patterned after a platter made for the nobleman in 1770. (The Paper Lion in Edmond carries at least twenty other brands in case you're ready to break over the price.) \$85. (405) 348-0952.





Tulsa's farmers' market on Cherry Street opens April 24.

ACROSS THE RANGE

WE KNOW WE BELONG TO THE LAND

A NEW CROP OF FARMERS' MARKETS IN OKLAHOMA

By Maura McDermott

ON A TYPICAL WEDNESDAY MORNING AT THE OSU/ Oklahoma City farmers' market, a crowd of women gathers around to listen to Terry Hamby rate the hotness quotient of various peppers: Anaheim, mild; Habañeros, blow-your-head-off hot. Shoppers pick up his jars of salsa and examine them like rare jewels. Two stalls down, Robert Stelle plays veggie trivia: how can you tell if an onion is freshly dug? It has no smell, he tells the city slicker, because onion odor takes two weeks to develop. Not far off, Doug Perry stands serenely among buckets stuffed with pink and yellow summer flowers.

He has customers who come faithfully each week to buy his bouquets. At one end of the row of vendors sits Jim Huffman surrounded by baskets of ripe peaches. Not much salesmanship needed here—a good Oklahoma peach crop sells itself.

A new alliance of farmers' markets is breaking ground across Oklahoma. Last summer there were twenty-five markets around the state, and a brand new market opened in the fashionable Cherry Street district in Tulsa. The markets have been steadily gaining customers, too, says Joe Creech of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture. This flowering of popular-

ity was led by the OSU/Oklahoma City market, whose business increased three-fold last year. For the farmers and cooperative extension agents who have worked over the years for farmers' markets, this new support is a welcome change.

Farmers' markets began to decline decades ago right along with the small family farm. With the rise of the supermarket chain, small local growers often lost out to mega-growers in California and other far-off locations. But while Americans have enjoyed a plethora of affordable food, the quality of produce, in particular, often suffered.

The farm market revival began on the coasts about twenty years ago. While popularity has been booming around the nation (a 40 percent increase between 1994 and 1996), Creech says it has taken awhile for farmers' markets to really catch on in Oklahoma. He speculates that this is because so many Oklahomans have traditionally grown gardens. But as lives get busier, backyard vegetable gardens often don't get planted. A yen for the succulent just-picked doesn't just go away, however, and this craving has driven the popularity of a new generation of markets. "People just like quality," says Creech.

Customers range from seniors who know what good food is but don't have quite enough oomph to garden anymore to gourmards in search of the perfectly plump tomato. Add to the mix Baby Boomers nostalgic for the sights and tastes of lost summers on Grandma's farm and you have what is called a customer base. All yearn for the freshest food, and for that, a farmers' market can't be beat. The produce there hasn't been shipped or stored, says Chris Kirby, manager of the OSU/OKC market. It has been picked mere hours before from red or black or brown Oklahoma dirt. Contrast this to vegetables that have been in transit for a week and fruits that were picked green so they wouldn't rot during their long journey to the mouth of the consumer. In addition to taste,

freshness also affects nutrients. Two important vitamins—C and folic acid—begin losing their potency the moment a vegetable is plucked.

A "true" farmers' market, says Creech, is one in which the produce is grown here and the farmers who grow it sell it themselves. Though time-consuming, it is more profitable for farmers than selling wholesale and beats setting up on a hot, lonely street corner. These days, farmers must be ready for the sophisticated customer who is just as apt to ask questions about pesticide use as about hot peppers. Savvy farmers know their customers are looking for both wholesome food and a personal connection to those who grow it.

Michelle Worley, a Stilwell mom, grows a gamut of vegetables with a minimum of chemicals. "I like knowing my kids can go out and be able to eat in the field," she tells her customers at the Muskogee farmers' market. The bigger farm markets open in mid-April. After five months of winter, "people are just itching to get out here," says Kirby. In fact, one grower selling asparagus early in the season at the OSU/OKC market sold two hundred pounds in one hour.

One problem market managers around the state have had thus far, says Creech, is getting farmers to meet the demand for cool season vegetables such as asparagus, lettuce, and broccoli (more difficult to grow in the Oklahoma climate). But as spring gives way to summer and the Oklahoma countryside comes alive, so do the markets. Tomatoes, corn, okra, and peppers are readily available along with other common vegetables and fruits. Some markets offer, along with traditional Oklahoma favorites, some less common items: blueberries, blackberries, venison, gourmet salad greens, tamales, cut flowers, local honey, and even non-edibles like handmade soaps and garden steppingstones. Special events such as the salsa taste-off at the OSU/OKC market last summer add to the mix and attract customers.

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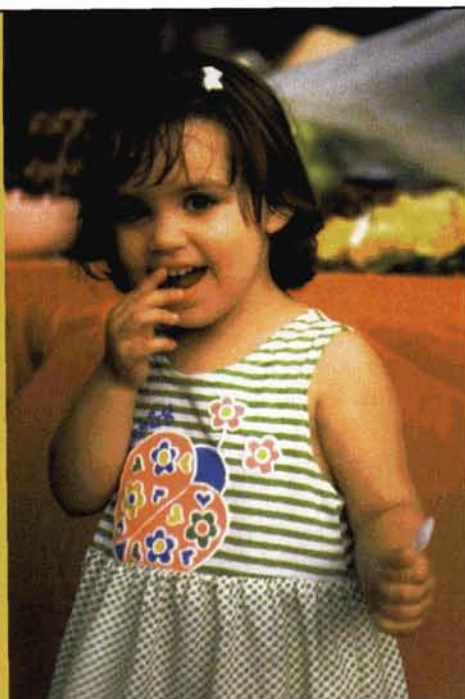
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ACROSS THE RANGE



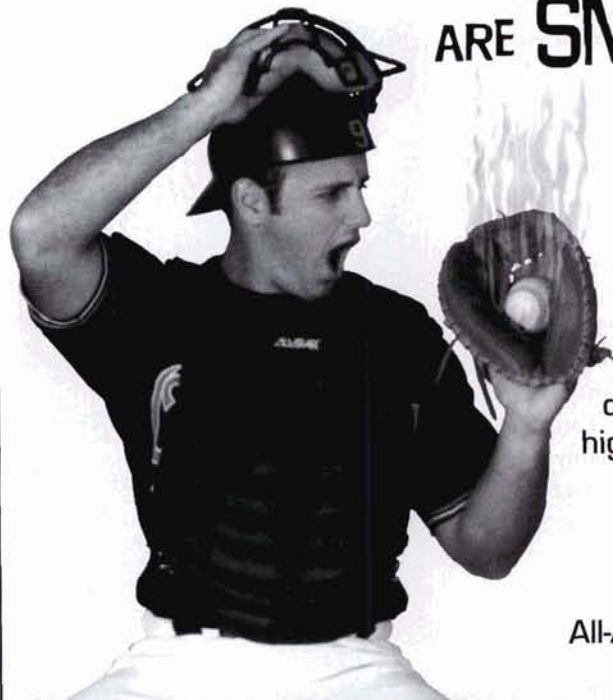
Flowers for sale at the OSU/OKC market

While the produce and activities at Oklahoma markets are getting more diverse, so are the farmers. Many are part-timers, retirees entering a second vocation, or middle-aged refugees from a fast-paced world. Others are from families who have farmed since statehood. And while being a farmer has never been easy, to be successful at a farmers' market these days requires more than knowing how to grow a decent zucchini—personality is an important part of the mix. This may be a stretch for those for whom "silent" and "farmer" are synonymous, but a friendly smile is virtually required these days.

Contributing editor Maura McDermott is the communications director for the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture. She lives in Checotah.

The OSU-OKC farmers' market is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. year-round; April 17 marks the beginning of outdoor sales from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Kirkpatrick Horticulture Center, 400 North Portland. (405) 945-3326. Muskogee's farmers' market is from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Saturday beginning April 17 at the Muskogee Public Library, 801 West Okmulgee. May 1 is the Spring Herbal Market from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Market is also held Tuesdays and Thursdays in mid-June.) (918) 487-5474. Tulsa's Cherry Street farmers' market is from 7 to 11 a.m. beginning April 24 at 15th Street and Peoria Avenue. (918) 747-6701. Norman's farmers' market is from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. beginning April 3 at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds. (405) 360-4721. The Shawnee-Pottawatomie County farmers' market is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays beginning in late May at the corner of Seventh Street and Bell. (405) 273-7683. Stillwater's Main Street farmers' market is from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. beginning April 3 at Ninth Street and Louis. (405) 372-5573

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Tri-State Music
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June 9-13
Chautauqua
in the Park

September 9-11
Cherokee Strip
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Cherokee Strip
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Enid Lights Up
The Plains



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"On The Chisholm Trail" Statue and Museum

FORT GIBSON

THE LEGENDARY ARMY
OUTPOST CELEBRATES
175 YEARS

IN 1823, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT didn't know exactly what to do with what would become Oklahoma, much less all the extra property bought with the Louisiana Purchase from Napoleon two decades before. So it forbid white settlement in an area west of a line of military forts established on a jaggedly north-south axis from Fort Snelling (near present day St. Paul, Minnesota) to Fort Towson near Idabel, then located on the edge of Mexican controlled lands.

Fort Gibson was one such frontier outpost on the edge of what the government called the "Permanent Western Frontier," and it still holds its own 175 years



At the Fort Gibson Historic Site, a pioneer woman prepares a typical plains meal.

A large advertisement for "OKLAHOMA NATIVE AMERICA". The main image is a close-up of a Native American man's face, wearing traditional white face paint with red and black markings. He is wearing a feathered headdress. The text "OKLAHOMA" is in large, stylized letters at the top, with "NATIVE AMERICA" below it. To the right, the text "America In Its Native State" is written in a cursive font. At the bottom, there is a small text box with the name "John Keel, Pawnee/Otoe/Comanche Cyril, Oklahoma". The bottom of the ad features a banner with the text "FREE TRAVEL GUIDE • 1-800-652-6552 • WWW.TRAVELOK.COM".



Mum



Daisy



Carnation



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The Crystal Nail Room
Balliet's Salon
Sam's Optical
G.H. Jewelry

50 Penn Place



Northwest Expressway and Penn, Oklahoma City
Monday-Friday 10am-7pm Saturday 10am-6pm Sunday Noon-5pm

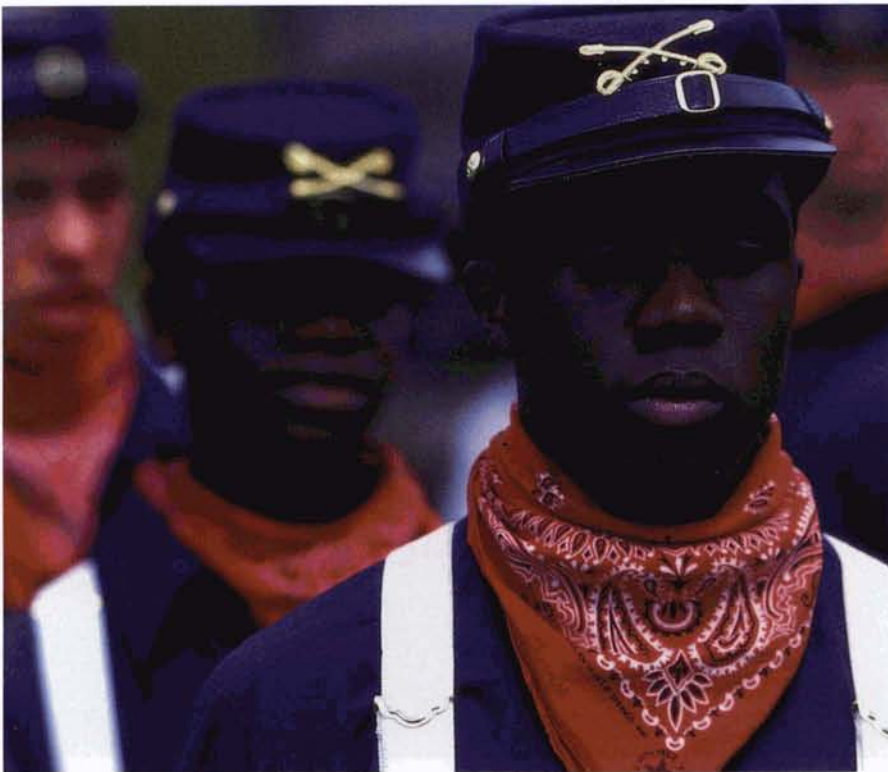
later. This April, a festival will mark the fort's anniversary.

In April 1824, Colonel Matthew Arbuckle moved the frontier fort from Fort Smith, Arkansas, in order to "establish an outpost at the mouth of the Verdigris River." Arbuckle transported his five companies of the Army's Seventh Infantry in two keelboats on the Arkansas River with most of the regiments and supplies moving overland on a trail already established by Native Americans, white traders, and missionaries. A stockade was established at the junction of the Arkansas, Verdigris, and Grand Rivers, and named Fort Gibson in honor of the army's commissary general, Colonel George Gibson—making it the first Euro-settlement other than trappers and traders in what would become present day Oklahoma.

The Army outpost was active from 1824 through 1890; though never besieged by battle itself, it was a strategic waystation, supply depot, and command center. Fort Gibson played key roles in the Trail of Tears, the Mexican War, the Civil War, and the Plains Indian Wars.

Despite its impressive record, the fort's early soldiers fought few enemies other than boredom, mosquitoes, dysentery, and an ever widening bald spot around the fort. Officers fresh from West Point were forced to travel further away for firewood and logs to rebuild the ever rotting buildings.

If Fort Gibson guns were quiet, though, its inhabitants were seething from within. Among those drawn to its western frontier were visionaries, zealots, renegades, opportunists, missionaries, politicians, and more than a few ladies of the night. Prior to the Civil War, three presidents of three countries visited Fort Gibson for widely varying reasons. Sam Houston, first president of the Republic of Texas, was a private citizen who lived in the Fort Gibson area in 1829 following his resignation as the governor of Tennessee. In 1833, he moved to the Mexican territory now known as Texas. Would-be president of the Confederate States Jefferson Davis was part of the elite Army Dragoons stationed at the fort in the 1830s, and twelfth President Zachary Taylor



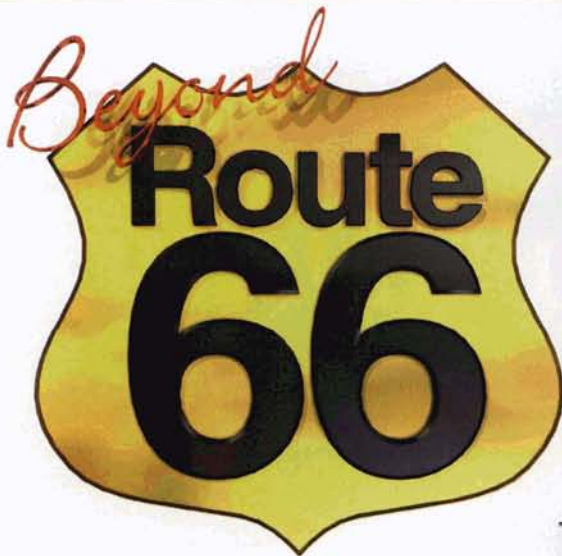
Buffalo Soldier reenactors will portray life at Fort Gibson on April 16, 17, and 18.

was an officer at Fort Gibson in 1841 before his victories in the Mexican War launched him into the White House from 1849 to 1851.

Besides soldiers and political luminaries—adventurers, writers, and artists toured the plains from Fort Gibson including artist George Catlin and writer Washington Irving, both of whom left valuable works on the plains of the early 1800s. While the West they knew is much altered, this fort which once served as its sole protector hasn't been forgotten.

—Joel Everett

The Old Fort Days Heritage Festival is from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. April 16 and 17 and from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 18 at the Fort Gibson Historic Site, one mile north on S.H. 80. Activities include a county fair, live music, children's corner, and demonstrations of nineteenth century weapons and crafts. A Native American showcase will feature flint knapping, basket weaving, and storytelling. Cost is \$3 per car, but shuttle service is free. (918) 478-4088



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RECONSTRUCTING HISTORY

NEW FOUNDATIONS FOR OLD BUILDINGS

IT'S BEEN NINE YEARS SINCE FRED WIEMER MADE IT HIS personal mission to seek out the architectural marvels of Oklahoma. Wiemer, a New York City resident and Drumright native, forsook his musical education and background and instead embarked on a journey which took him to every corner of the state.

Although all of the 3,000 photographs comprising the newly christened "Wiemer Collection" are now housed at the Oklahoma Historical Society's Preservation Office in Oklahoma City, Wiemer hopes to foster an interest in Oklahoma's early buildings by touring the state this April for a series of six lectures entitled "Early Oklahoma Architecture: Sampling the Wiemer Collection."

Beginning in 1990, Wiemer embarked on his quest to explore all scenic areas of Oklahoma he had never previously visited and to focus on nineteenth century dwellings. Traveling to Oklahoma each fall and spring, he sought out those buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places. A pattern soon emerged.

"Be it Italian Renaissance, Mediterranean, or Mission-style

homes or buildings, all early Oklahoma buildings related to the earth and nature," Wiemer says, "yet all of the Oklahoma buildings in the NRHP have the common designation of being built at a time when the earth theme was taken for granted." (It wasn't until after World War II that European trends began to have more influence in the state.)

In addition to the natural resources used, most Oklahoma architecture is known for its simplicity. "These buildings are very understated," he says. (Notable exceptions are the Bizzell Library at OU and some of Tulsa's art deco buildings.)

Wiemer says he hopes the lectures will give Oklahomans a glimpse of what they normally don't see or appreciate. "Oklahoma's architecture is important because it connects the state with the rest of the world."

—John Gifford

The lecture series begins April 6 at the No Man's Land Museum in Goodwell, (580) 349-2670. Lectures will follow April 7 at the Museum of the Cherokee Strip in Enid, (580) 237-1907; April 8 at the Museum of the Western Prairie in Altus, (580) 482-1044; April 13 at the Overholser Mansion in Oklahoma City, (405) 524-4369; April 14 at the Pioneer Woman Museum in Ponca City, (580) 765-6108; and April 15 at the George M. Murrell House in Park Hill, (918) 456-2751. All lectures begin at 7 p.m. and are free. (405) 521-6249

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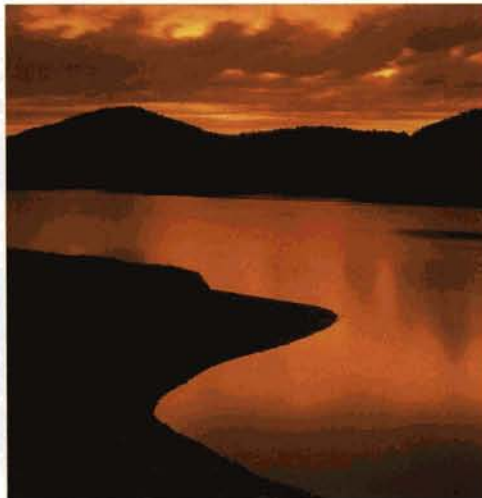
Ada	Chickasha	Enid	Oklahoma City (3)	Poteau	Stillwater
Altus	Claremore	Glenpool (Tulsa Area)	Oklahoma City Area (Moore)	Roland	Stroud
Ardmore	Clinton	Grove	Okmulgee	Sallisaw	Tulsa (3)
Atoka	Durant	Guthrie	Owasso (Tulsa Area)	Sand Springs (Tulsa Area)	Weatherford
Bartlesville	El Reno	Guymon	Perry	Shawnee	
Checotah	Elk City	Miami			

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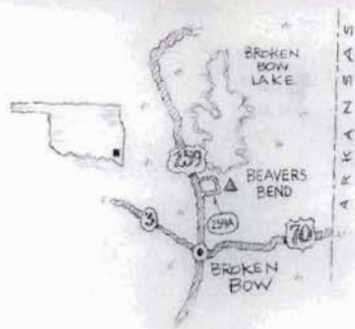
Looking for that isolated mesa to calm your rattled nerves? In search of a refreshing body of water on that coveted day off? These seven wonders in Oklahoma's own beloved back yard offer the discriminating traveler a world without telephones, faxes, or e-mail. Herewith, our favorite landscapes and your invitation to a day...

In the Wilds

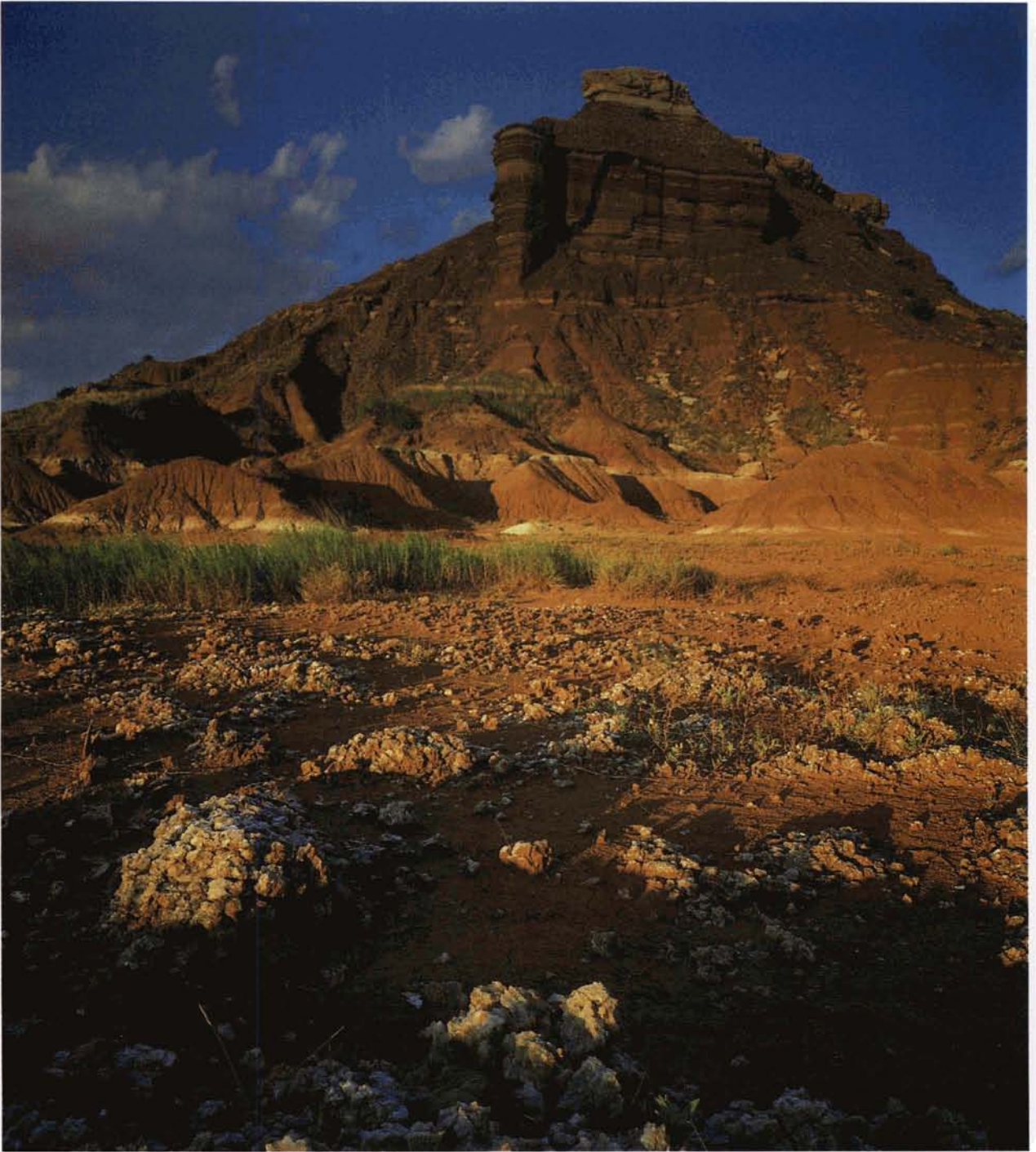


photography by Michael Hardeman

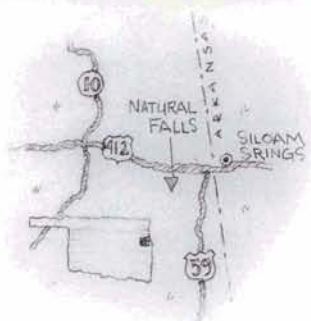
Looping through Beavers Bend Resort Park is U.S. 259A, a road alternating between forested curves and expansive vistas of Broken Bow Lake. For this view, go to the lake's dam, which separates the body of water from the Mountain Fork River. (580) 584-3393



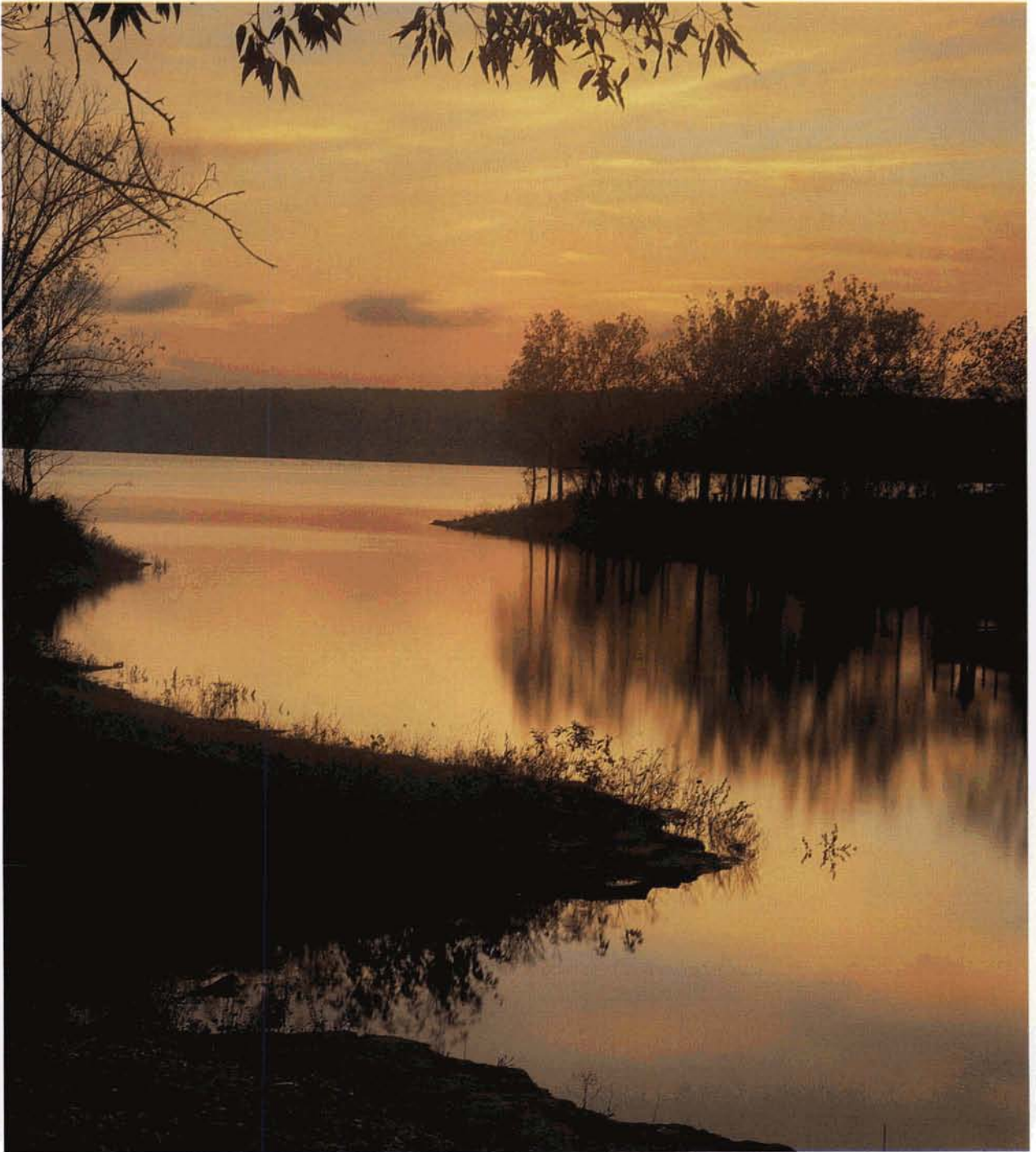
Beavers Bend Resort Park claims this stretch of the **Lower Mountain Fork**, a fast-flowing river nestled in the **Kiamichi Mountains** that contains some of the best trout fishing in the **Midwest**. This view is a stone's throw from the park's nature center. Take **U.S. 259 North** to **U.S. 259A**. (580) 494-6300



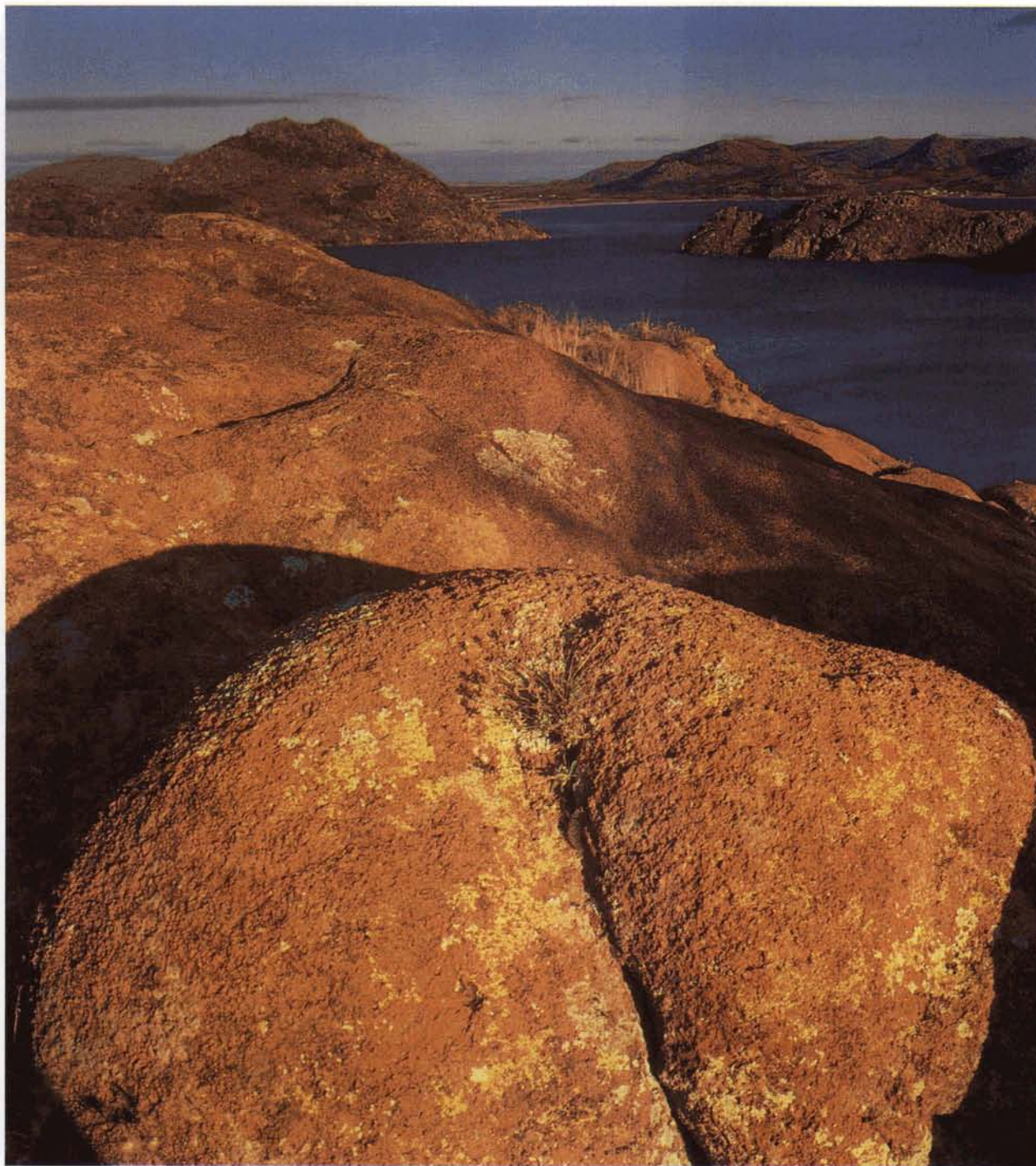
About forty miles west of Enid on U.S. 412 stand the Gloss Mountains, a series of buttes hinting at the Great American Desert beyond. A scenic area 5.5 miles west of Orienta has an information booth, picnic areas, and an opening in the fence for those daring the climb. (Beware of rattlesnakes.) (580) 227-2527



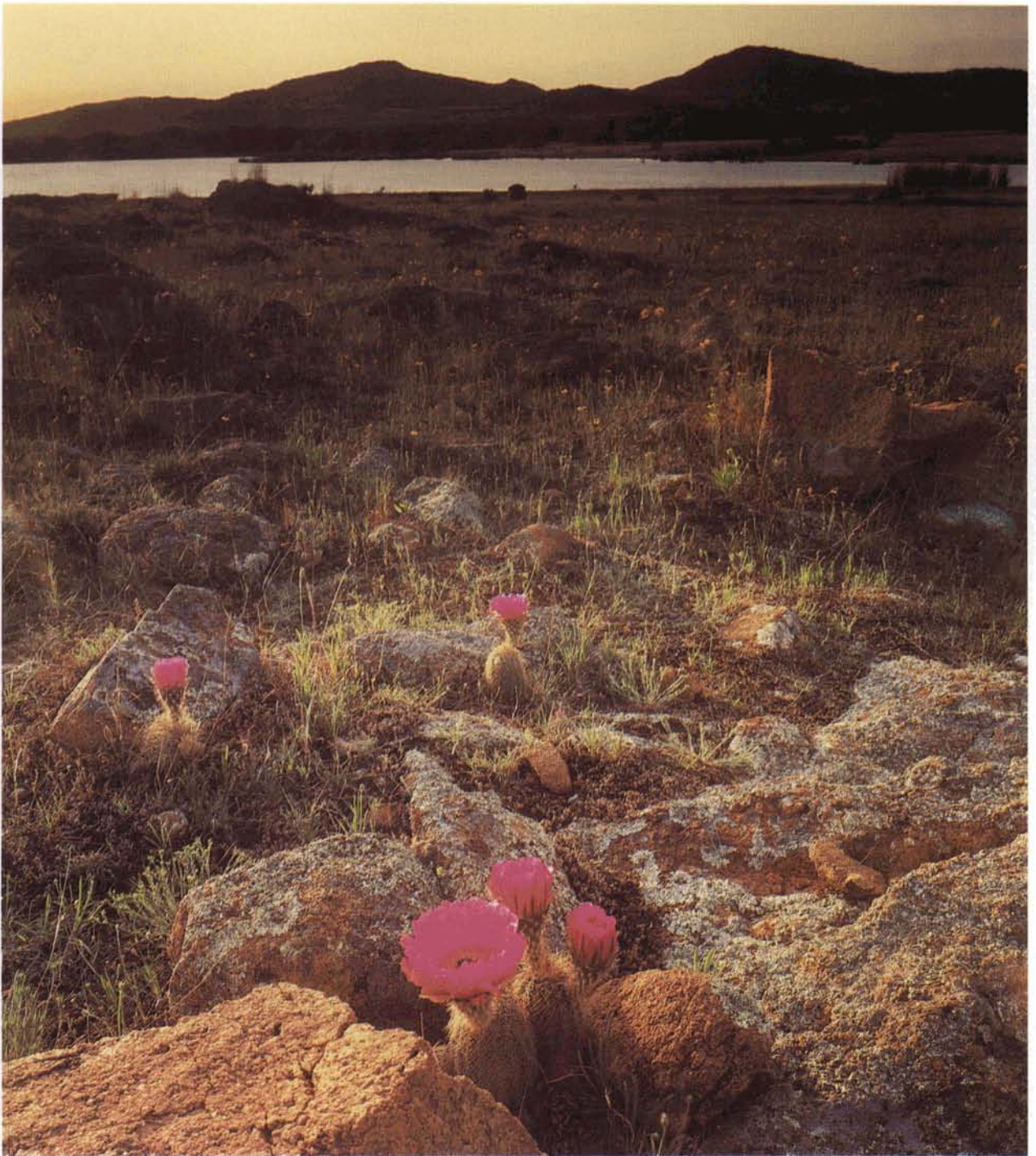
Just west of the Arkansas state line sits Oklahoma's newest state park, Natural Falls. For this vantage point—immediately right of a seventy-seven-foot-high waterfall—make the one-eighth mile walk down the steps from the trailhead to the observation platform. (918) 422-5802



For this view of Lake Tenkiller, take S.H. 82 ten miles south of the U.S. 62 junction to Cherokee Landing State Park. Look for a fishing platform across the cove, about 100 feet west of the park entrance. (918) 457-5716



Prepare your climbing legs for this south-facing vista of Lake Altus at Quartz Mountain Resort Park. Once you're in the park, drive past the visitor center to the top of the hill and park. In the distance will be the Quartz Mountain Lodge; to your right is the Twin Peaks area and the hill you will then climb. Wear the right shoes. (580) 563-2238



This hot pink cactus, commonly known as the Wichita pin cushion, can only be found in the Gloss Mountains and here at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge because it requires a granite-based soil. (It only blooms in late May.) In the distance is Quannah Parker Lake. Take S.H. 115 to the south-central entrance of the refuge. (580) 429-3222



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Black Book

Oklahoma

By Aimée J. Downs



From children's museums and coffee houses to pet boarders and adventure outfitters, *Oklahoma Today's* first-ever Black Book serves up all the numbers and addresses necessary to get you on your travelin' way. Check out our recommendations for breakfast spots, vegetarian fare, antique dealers, and even those heavens of relaxation: the ever-indulgent day spa.

Specialized Museums

National Lighter Museum • Guthrie

For as long as they can remember, Ted and Pat Ballard have collected lighters. Appropriately, they founded the only museum of its kind in the United States dedicated to collecting and preserving the history and evolution of lighters. Out of the couple's fiery fervor comes 20,000 lighters ranging from those dating back hundreds of years to modern day Zippos (over 7,000 are on display). Open 10 a.m.

to 6 p.m. seven days a week. Donations appreciated. 107 S. Second St. On the Internet, www.natlitrmus.com, or (405) 282-3025

Percussive Arts Society Museum • Lawton

An international repository for historical and hard-to-find instruments from

around the world, this museum also hosts a concert series that runs throughout the year. Some percussive instruments (like ancient gongs and marimbas) are for viewing only, but visitors can beat the drums, bang the gongs, and experiment with sound on designated pieces. Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

weekdays, 1-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission \$1, twelve and under free. 701 N.W. Ferris. (580) 353-1455

Railroad Museum of Oklahoma • Enid

Restored train cars, railroad china, memorabilia, and railway equipment comprise this museum situated in an eighty-year-old Santa Fe Railway freight depot. On the grounds sit several cars, including a 1920 forty-ton St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad Company engine. Open 1-4 p.m.



RICHARD SMITH



Breakfast Spots

Brookside By Day • Tulsa

This hoppin' spot caters especially to the breakfast and lunch crowd. The traditional, home-style menu mixes pancakes and eggs with French toast topped by fresh fruit.

In their eighth year, Brookside's affordable dining and cheerful staff continue to please. Open 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday. 3313 S. Peoria Ave. (918) 745-9989

Cal's Country Cooking • Erick

At Cal's they still cook the old-fashioned way, just like Cal Rogers did when he first opened his doors in 1946 on Route 66. Cal recently hung up his chef's hat, and now his daughter, Cheryl, shares a load of the cooking. Cal's opens early and serves a mean breakfast. Open 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. Located on I-40, exit 7. (580) 526-3239

Classen Grill • OKC

Classen Grill has been serving every meal

of the day to Oklahomans for nineteen years, but they've become famous for their Tex-Mex breakfasts. For a down-home favorite, try the Biscuit Debris, an open biscuit covered in gravy, sausage, and cheese. On weekends, expect to wait for a table. Open 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday. 5124 N. Classen Blvd. (405) 842-0428

More Than Muffins Bakery and Restaurant • OKC

It's also more than a name, providing an array of tasty baked goods (breads, low-fat muffins of all varieties, and desserts). For those looking to relax over a leisurely breakfast, the Brazilian-style omelets fit the bill. If a late breakfast is in the plans, a live jazz band plays every Saturday beginning at 11 a.m. Open 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday. 1903 N. Classen Blvd. (405) 525-9779

'Make voyages!
Attempt them!
There's nothing else.'

Tennessee Williams

Retro Furniture

Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, and 2-5 p.m. Sunday. Donations appreciated. 702 N. Washington. (580) 233-3051

Sequoyah's Cabin • Sallisaw

Sequoyah built this log home around 1830. The structure now displays period furniture and personal items of the man who invented the Cherokee syllabary. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 2-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Free admission. Located eleven miles northeast of Sallisaw on S.H. 101. (918) 775-2413

Veteran's Museum • Wilburton

A small log cabin nine miles south of town features memorabilia from the Spanish-American War, and the front grounds showcase naval and anti-aircraft guns. Open by appointment only. Free admission. Located on S.H. 2 South. (918) 465-2759

Deco To Disco • Tulsa

"Architecturally inspired Fifties furniture is our main thing," says co-owner Maurice Powell, who sells sought-after pieces from the Twenties to the Seventies with his sister, Jennifer Taylor. Hermann Miller and blonde Heywood-Wakefield furniture, vintage clothing, and pop culture ephemera fill the only shop of its kind in Tulsa. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and 12-4 p.m. Sunday. 2921 E. 15th St. (918) 749-3620

Elektra • OKC

The fast moving inventory in Elektra covers every decade from the Twenties to the Seventies, and owner Steve Helt always has English art deco furniture passing through his store. He also carries ritual objects made by Tibetan monks, sarongs out of Bali, and reproduction deco items from New York and Italy. Open 12-7 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 1-6 p.m. Sunday. 4327 N. Western. (405) 524-4327

leitmotif • OKC

Brian Brody opened his shop five years ago this April Fools' Day, where he not only sells mid-century modern furniture, but he'll also reupholster yours. Open 12-5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 12-6 p.m. Saturday. 8913 N. Western. (405) 848-3432

International Travel Shots

If you're heading for territory beyond state and national boundaries, contact the Oklahoma Health Department at (405) 271-4073, ext. 5700, for a useful automated information line. Detailing immunization requirements and providing country-specific updates, the hot line also offers statewide clinic information and locations. (International immunization sites for diseases such as yellow fever and typhoid are located in Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Ponca City, Guymon, Enid, Durant, Bartlesville, Stilwell, Pryor, and Claremore.) Also contact the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, for continuously updated information at (877) 394-8747 or www.cdc.gov.



THIS ROW: J. D. MERRYWEATHER



Broken Bow Scuba • Broken Bow

Servicing a full-line dive shop with classes available, their instruction ranges in skill level from beginner to advanced for ages twelve and up. (Prices start at \$125.) Open 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 7:30 a.m. to noon Saturday. Memorial Day through Labor Day the shop opens at 9 a.m. Sundays and closes when people stop coming through the door. 1000 S. Park. (580) 584-9140

Hi-Performance • Tulsa

Open since last December, this sister store to the Hi-Performances in Norman

and Oklahoma City features top of the line scuba, skate, and snowboard equipment. Store owners Michael Morey and J. Sartin sell both Burton and Salomon snowboards and also lead winter trips to Colorado. If water is more your thing, Hi-Performance sponsors trips to nearby Grand Lake and Mexican hot spots like Cozumel and Cancun. Open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday. 6046 S. Sheridan, Suite A. (918) 523-7669

Rage • Ardmore

The only store of its kind in southern Oklahoma, Rage offers a broad skateboard line. This shop is devoted to outfitting customers with the hippest boards and all the extras. Teens will also find their alternative clothing needs met with

everything from Mossimo and Lucky brands to Dr. Martens and 26 Red. Open 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. 12 N.W. B St. (580) 226-2816

River's Edge • OKC

Oklahoma City's only exclusive fly-fishing shop provides customers their every need for the sport. Anglers will find fly-fish paraphernalia, classes, private lessons, and even guided trips. River's Edge is also the only Oklahoma City dealer of Orvis, a company servicing fly-fisherman since 1856. Open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, and 1-5 p.m. Sunday. 10904 N. May Ave. (405) 748-3900

Pet Grooming and Boarding

Anne's Country Club • Oklahoma City

What to do with your beloved golden retriever or your spritely Jack Russell when off adventuring? Take them to Anne's Country Club, a full-service groomer and boarder. Open for twenty-seven years, the family-run business attracts beastly customers from across the state. Six acres, 175 indoor/outdoor runs, and cozy beds are just some of the extras offered to both dogs and their feline counterparts. The real perk is play time: for \$3 per session, dogs get to romp with attendants for half an hour. Anne's Country Club also offers obedience training and boarding school and sells pet supplies. Average-size dog: \$12.50 per night; cat: \$8 per night. 4200 E. Britton Rd. (405) 478-2303



Public Golf Courses

Cedar Creek • Broken Bow

Part of Beavers Bend Resort Park, this eighteen-hole course also comes with a putting green and driving range (heat-tolerant Bermuda grass covers the fairways). Green fees: \$15 weekdays, \$20 weekends. Take U.S. 259 North to Cedar Creek Road. (580) 494-6456

Forest Ridge • Broken Arrow

A modern, tight course. If you aren't on the course, you're in the woods. In 1998, *Golf Digest* listed Forest Ridge among the top six public and private courses in the state. Green fees: \$65 weekdays, \$75 weekends. 7501 E. Kenosha. (918) 357-2282

Jimmie Austin University of Oklahoma Golf Course • Norman

A slope of 134 degrees makes OU's course one of the toughest in the area.

Green fees: \$33 weekdays, \$40 weekends. One Par Drive. (405) 325-6716

Karsten Creek Golf Club • Stillwater

Named one of ten five-star golf courses in North America by *Golf Digest* in 1998, Karsten Creek is a rarity in public courses. Designed by Tom Fazio, the luxurious club's oak-lined fairways allow no break in the skyline during play (thereby eliminating any distractions). The 110-acre Lake Louise will challenge even the most seasoned player. Annual memberships—depending on residency—run between \$1,500 and \$3,000. Guest green fees: \$75 with member, \$150 non-accompanied. 1800 S. Memorial Dr. (405) 743-1658



Tearooms

Garden Party Tearoom • Bixby

Inside Treasure House Antique Mall, the Garden Party offers a refuge for tired shoppers. Tula Jagers, who owns both, makes all of the tearoom fare. Her personal favorites are the broccoli cheese soup, cheesecake, and turtle brownies. Open 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. 112 N. Armstrong. (918) 366-9400

Margaret Faye's Garden Tearoom • Oilton

"It's like an oasis in the desert," says Ruth Jones of her retreat, where she daily serves soups, salads, sandwiches, and quiche (on Sunday it's a traditional after-church meal). Ruth's most re-

quested specialty? Tortilla soup. For dessert, try the crème puff cake. Open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 12-3 p.m. Sunday. 100 W. Main. (918) 862-3370

Miss Addie's Tearoom • Muskogee

Toby and Bernadette Feickert have been offering delightful lunches for over seven years. "Quiche is our biggest highlight during the day," says Toby. "People say it's the best they've ever had." The husband and wife team shares the cooking responsibility with their chef, who really comes in handy with the tearoom's new nightly country-French cuisine. Open 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. 821 W. Broadway. (918) 682-1506

'There ought to be a law against anybody going to Europe till they had seen the things we have in this country.'

Will Rogers,
August 14, 1930

Page Belcher • Tulsa

Two par seventy-one golf courses—Old Page and Stone Creek—comprise this 36-hole facility. Similar to a links course, Old Page runs longer and wider than the shorter and more narrow Stone Creek. Green fees: \$15.75 weekdays, \$19 weekends, \$10.75 twilight. 6666 S. Union Ave. (918) 446-1529

Traditions Golf Club • Edmond

Opened in 1997, this par sixty, 128 degree slope course is similar to Scottish links. Besides the state's largest driving range, try the nine-hole wedge course or the eighteen-hole putting course. Green fees: \$14.25 weekdays, \$16.25 weekends. 15200 Traditions Blvd. (405) 330-7989



Pizza Places

Hideaway • Stillwater

Although the pizza toppings and titles have undergone revisions over the years (now on the menu: Southern Style BBQ, Maui Magic, and North Beach Pesto), this Oklahoma mainstay continues to draw pizza die-hards. Founder Richard Dermer attributes his forty-two-year success to piling on the ingredients. The original Hideaway remains in Stillwater, but others can be found in Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

Stillwater hours: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. weekends. 230 S. Knoblock. (405) 372-4777

Mainstreet Pizza • Fletcher

New York-style pizza, spaghetti sauce, lasagna, and bread sticks (all homemade and prepared by owner Bob Mager) bring folks in, but the reasonable prices keep them coming back. Open 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5-9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, and 12-4 p.m. Sunday. 421 Cole Ave. (580) 549-4098

Papa's Lil' Italy • OKC

On the red checkered tablecloths, Papa's serves a "taste of the old country" and some of the best authentic Italian pies around. No fancy names for these pizzas—only traditional ingredients top their hand-tossed specialties. Open 5-10 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 4-10 p.m. Saturday. Reservations recommended. I-35 North and Hefner Rd. (405) 478-1118

Lovera's Italian Deli & Pizzeria • Krebs

An extension of the family run Lovera's grocery store, Krebs Korner convenience store houses Lovera's Pizzeria, where authentic Italian pies are hot out of the slate oven (so crusts are crispy not soggy). All pizzas are prepared with homemade crust, and for meat lovers, the sausage is made fresh down the street at Lovera's meat market. Available by the slice for 75 cents or by the pie from \$5.99 (small) to \$9.99 (large). Open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. 512 W. Washington. (918) 426-0009

'It is good to have
an end to journey
toward, but it is the
journey that matters
in the end.'

Ursula K. LeGuin

Historic Cemeteries

Fort Sill Cemetery • Lawton

The first Indian burial took place at Fort Sill in 1871, and in the years to follow these grounds have become the resting place for some of Oklahoma's more famous Native Americans. Among the six cemeteries at the "Indian Arlington" are gravesites for Comanche Quanah Parker (and his mother); Black Beaver of the Delaware tribe, the scout who shares credit with Jesse Chisholm for the famous cattle trail; and Geronimo, who died while under house arrest at Fort Sill in 1909. His grave is located in the Apache Prisoner of War Cemetery. Cheyenne, Comanche, Kiowa, and Apache chiefs are buried in the Chief's Knoll. Located three blocks west of Old Post. (580) 442-5123

Left Hand Spring Camp • Geary

Along the North Canadian River on the old trail between Fort Reno and Camp Supply lie the graves of Jesse Chisholm and his friend, Arapaho Chief Left Hand. Also represented are the Indians who traded with Chisholm. (Chisholm died in 1868 while visiting Left Hand.) Take S.H. 281 to the north edge of town and follow the signs. (405) 884-2765



Best Streets

Cherry Street • Tulsa

Don't expect to find historic Cherry Street on a city map. It's really Fifteenth Street between Peoria and Utica Avenues, but you'll find most anything here within a short walk. On an antique mission? Check out The Antiquary, (918) 582-2897, or England & Harp, (918) 582-3299. Seeking out a rare or hard-to-find book? Go to First Edition Book Store, (918) 582-1967. If they don't have it, they'll find it. Stop by the Eccentric Teapot for a rest from shopping, (918) 582-1555. T A Lorton offers the ultimate in table linens, bedroom and bathroom specialty items, baby clothes, and even Kate Spade picture albums, (918) 743-1600. For a workout with a personal trainer, try Firm by Susan Fuller, (918) 583-3476. A beer instead? Try the Slow Duck Saloon, (918) 592-3825. For lunch or dinner, the Full Moon Café remains a Tulsa favorite, (918) 583-6666.

Paseo • OKC

Tucked between Walker and Western and Northwest Twenty-third and Thirtieth streets sits a creative cove, home to more than forty artists and

galleries. Paseo Street, first dubbed the Spanish Village, was designed and built in 1928 by G.A. Nichols—the same planner of Oklahoma City's residential areas Nichols Hills and Crown Heights. At Mixed Media Supplies & Design, (405) 557-0650, owner Michi Susan sells supplies as well as her own paintings. Looking for great photography? Tom Lee's studio sells his black-and-white prints, (405) 525-3133. For fun home décor, try the Curious Emporium, (405) 524-9447. Hungry? The new Galileo Bar & Grill, (405) 415-7827, serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner (until 2 a.m.). The Paseo's recent popularity stems from its annual art festival (last year 45,000 people attended). This spring's festival, May 29-31, will feature over seventy-five artists peddling wares, (405) 525-2688.

Western • OKC

Western Avenue has an abundance of antique shops, specialty boutiques, and restaurants. Although they aren't within walking distance of one another, it's worth getting in your car and checking out the action between Northwest Thirtieth Street and Britton Road. For tailored clothing and attentive service try

Memorial Park Cemetery • OKC

Burial site of pilot Wiley Post, who died August 15, 1935, near Point Barrow, Alaska, in a plane crash with humorist Will Rogers. Located at North Kelly and Memorial. Take the west entrance and look for a Post statue near the bell tower. (405) 478-0556

Mount Olivet Cemetery • Hugo

Kelly-Miller Circus and Carson-Barnes Circus members make Hugo their winter home, so naturally they chose the town as their ultimate resting place. In a section known as "Showmen's Rest—All Buried Under God's Big Top," headstones loom for all circus types—from founders and performers to elephant

trainers. Don't expect to find ordinary markers; big tops and elephants only start the list of headstones here. Mount Olivet is also the burial place of champion bull riders Freckles Brown, Lane Frost, and Todd Whatley. Private tours are available. 800 E. Trice St. (580) 326-9263

Perryman Cemetery • Tulsa

In the heart of Tulsa lies a 150-foot-square piece of land, formerly a Native American graveyard started by a Creek Indian family. The Perrymans owned a 60,000-acre ranch covering land in Tulsa and Broken Arrow in the 1800s. At least forty graves are tributes to this family, but the cemetery also contains the unmarked graves of Civil War soldiers. Located on Thirty-second Street between Trenton and Utica Avenues.

Joan Vass Clothing, (405) 848-5903, or Urban Classics, (405) 848-0384. For a light lunch, go to City Bites Subs, (405) 632-6655, a sandwich company based in Bethany. Ground Floor Café, (405) 842-2233, offers one of the best Caesar salads around. Belle Maison, (405) 843-4611, carries everything from dishes to furniture with a French country theme. For great Tex-Mex, try Iguana Lounge, (405) 840-3474. End the day at TapWerks Ale House & Café, (405) 842-6769, with the largest beer selection in the city.

J. D. MERRYWEATHER

JOHN EAGLESTON



Wine Bars

Metro Wine Bar & Bistro • OKC

The wine connoisseur need look no further: the Metro carries over 400 bottles from around the world, including Australian, Chilean, French, and German varieties. Open 11:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday (midnight Friday), 5:30 p.m. to midnight Saturday, and 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday. 6418 N. Western. (405) 840-9463

Old Germany Restaurant • Choctaw

Each August, *Wine Spectator* honors restaurants internationally with an award of excellence for their list of wines and corresponding menu. Old Germany first received this honor in 1986, and they've won it every year since. Mike Turek and his family immigrated to the United States in 1974, opened their restaurant in 1976, and last year served over 36,000 people the most authentic German fare around, from schnitzel to gypsy plates. Their web site, www.oldgermany.com, includes a complete wine list with prices and a walk through Germany's wine country. Open 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5-9 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. 15920 S.E. 29th St. (405) 390-8647



Smoke-free Restaurants

Boarding House Café • Stillwater

Richard Orteiz believes in "nurturing your meal from seed to table." That's why he grows most of the vegetables served and sells resulting products—labeled Boarding House Classics—at the local farmers' market. Orteiz didn't plan a smoke-free environment, but the restaurant is split into two separate buildings divided by the central kitchen (making one side smoker-friendly). Open 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays, closed weekends. 213 S. Knoblock. (405) 624-1019

Bozena Polish Restaurant

• Fort Gibson

"We haven't allowed smoking from the day we opened. We lose some customers, but we don't care," says owner Zbigniew Niebieszczanski who operates the only Polish restaurant in Oklahoma. The menu features Golabek Polski (cabbage roll), Zeberka Doszone (baked pork ribs), and Pierogi Polski (Bozena's handmade dumplings). Open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. 1115 E. Poplar. (918) 478-4404

Cheever's Café • OKC

Offering dining inside or on the patio, Cheever's lunch and dinner crowds feast on dishes such as Shrimp and Orange Pasta, Five Spice Duck Breast, or the Las Cruces Club sandwich. Beignets, smoked salmon omelets, and quiche on the Sunday brunch menu also leave diners content. Open 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday. 2409 N. Hudson. (405) 525-7007

Peach House • Broken Arrow

Situated on a 3,000-tree working peach orchard, the Peach House treats customers to a full range of lunch and dinner items. Owners Bruce and Connie Bush started out by serving peach cobbler with homemade ice cream from their sprawling, ranch-style building. When it's warm, most choose to sit on the patio. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday. 12500 S. 129th E. Ave. (918) 455-5404

'Unanticipated invitations to travel
are dancing lessons from God.'

Kurt Vonnegut, 1922

Day Spas

Amy's Cottage Day Spa • Enid



Nestled in a wooded estate north of town sits a comforting retreat for those who need to be pampered. Amy Parrish (and three employees) offers hair, facial, manicure, and pedicure services and the ultimate in relaxation—full-body treatments. On the Body Silk treatment, she uses sea salts with a natural exfoliant to draw toxins away from the body (this comes with a light massage), \$50. Parrish uses YonKa products, a French cosmetic and cleansing line widely considered the best, for facials. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. 402 E. Robertson. (580) 242-5554

Ladan Hair Design & Day Spa • Stillwater

Five years ago Ladan Zarrabi sought to fill what she considered some holes in Stillwater's salons. She created the only day spa in the area, focusing equally on clients and staff education. Stylists use Toni and Guy products and Ladan's aesthetician (facial specialist) uses only Murad products, a line out of California. Open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday (10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday), 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. 724 S. Main. (405) 377-6000

Marilyn Ihloff Salon and Day Spa • Tulsa

What began in 1980 as a salon with a full range of hair, skin, nail, and body services has grown to encompass a luxurious day spa featuring multiple massage and facial rooms. There are plenty of packages to choose from: Ihloff Spa Sampler (\$153), Ihloff Spa Day of Beauty (\$245), or Just for Gents (\$122). Open 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday (until 9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday). 1350 E. 15th. (918) 587-2566



Vegetarian Fare

Be Le Vegetarian • Tulsa

Ask just about any Tulsa vegetarian, and they'll send you to Be Le Vegetarian. Owned and operated by the Nguyen family, Be Le serves typical Chinese and Vietnamese dishes, but absolutely nothing on the menu is made with meat or meat byproducts. All "meat" dishes are made from soybeans or tofu processed to look and taste like meat. Open 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 4-9 p.m. Sunday. 3121 S. Mingo. (918) 664-0292

Big Al's Subs & Health Foods • Tulsa

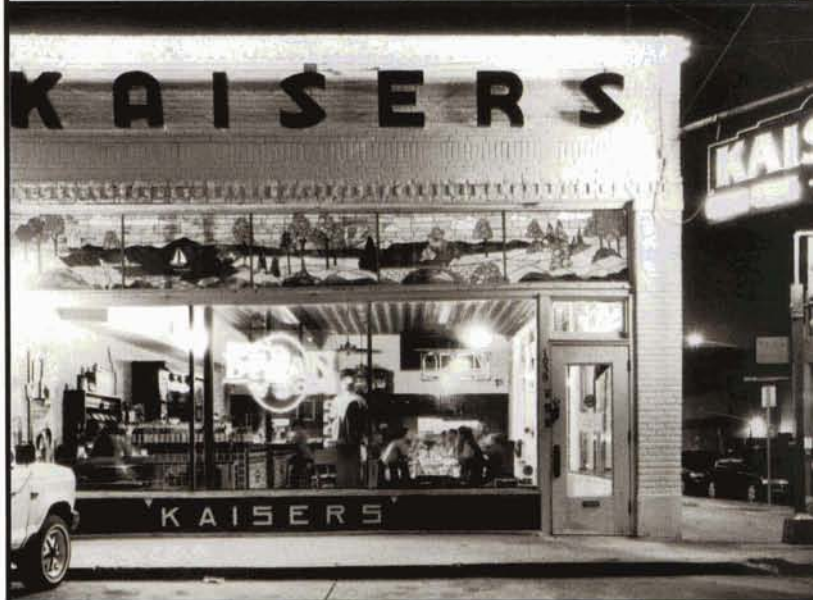
Catering to health-minded people and vegetarians alike, Big Al's serves a variety of specialties from subs to burritos (on wheat bread and tortillas). Wash it all down with juice or a smoothie—both made from fresh fruit or veggies. Open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. 15th and Harvard. (918) 744-5085

Grateful Bean Café and Soda Fountain • OKC

Housed in the old Kaiser's building—where homemade ice cream has been dished out since 1910—the Grateful Bean serves veggie lunch hour solutions to a couple hundred people daily. Half the dishes are vegan, and the others stick with chicken and fish. You won't find any red meat here. Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, closed weekends. 10th Street and Walker. (405) 236-3503

Terraluna Grille • OKC

They don't claim the label, but with vegetarian-friendly menu items like Southwest Black Bean Lasagna, Smoked Tomato Primavera, and Shiitake Mushroom and Broccoli Stir-Fry, TerraLuna has quickly become a trendy veggie-lovers spot. Wine enthusiasts appreciate their policy of charging only \$5 over cost for every bottle. Lunch hours: 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday; dinner hours: 5:30-10 p.m. weekdays, and 5:30-10:30 p.m. weekends. Closed Sunday. 7408 N. Western. (405) 879-0009



European Antique Dealers

Haskell Antique Auction • Haskell

Importers of fine European antiques from Scotland, Wales, England, Germany, and Ireland—Haskell has a web site, www.haskellauction.com, offering lists and photographs of upcoming items set for the block. Auctions are held at 6 p.m. each Saturday. Located at Junction 64 and S.H. 72 between Tulsa and Muskogee. (918) 482-3947

Interiors & Antiques By Phillip • Tulsa

Nestled in the upscale shops along Cherry Street, Phillip Burkhardt brings over thirty years of antique experience to his shop. Rare pieces are found under his roof, including stuffed leopards from Africa. The dramatic light fixtures hanging from the ceiling are also for sale. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 1523 E. 15th St. (918) 583-6700

Redstone Country Antiques • Guthrie

Jose and Perla Gonzalez spent nearly a decade in Germany developing a passion for Europe's antique market. Now owners of Redstone Country, the couple regularly returns to Europe searching for French, English, and Dutch wares. As rare as the antiques is the building that houses them. This 1890s landmark is the only structure in town built completely from local quarried red stone. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. 206 S. Second St. (405) 282-2667

Watermark • Ardmore

Interior designer Lisa Garrett traverses the English countryside several times a year looking to fill her southern Oklahoma antique shop. You'll mostly find English pieces with some French mixed in. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. 19 N. Washington. (580) 223-7900



DAVID FITZGERALD

Travel Publications

Exploring Oklahoma With Children • Edited by Sarah Lowrey Taylor

The perfect guide for families with children of all ages, this book lists attractions, restaurants, places to stay, events, and what to expect when you arrive. (Inprint Publishing, 1995) \$12.95

Footsteps Through Tulsa • Marilyn Inhofe-Tucker, Sandy Jones, and Kate Reeves

This book leads readers on an active adventure through Tulsa with detailed walks focusing on historical and architectural sites, museums, universities, and nature. Comes complete with the distance of each walk (usually about a 1.5-mile trek) and the length of time spent. \$13.95

Oklahoma: America In Its Native State 1999 Oklahoma Travel Guide

This comprehensive guide to the state is published annually by the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department. With listings of things to do, places to stay, and restaurants for every town and city in Oklahoma, it's a must-have for any state traveler. For a free copy, call (800) 652-6552.

The Roads Of Oklahoma

Over 100 maps of all the roads in Oklahoma—from major highways to back roads—with a comprehensive index of more

than 1,800 towns and cities. (Shearer Publishing, 1997) \$16.95

Roadside History Of Oklahoma • Francis L. and Roberta B. Fugate

This intricate combination of Oklahoma's history and the roads it took place on gives readers a feel for the stories of settlement in Indian Territory and the state's history makers. The authors moved to Oklahoma in 1946 and immersed themselves in discovering its past. The result: a look at each road in the state with a story of each place it passes through. (Mountain Press, 1998) \$20

Scenic Driving The Ozarks • Don Kurz

The Ozarks span the states of Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma (including the Ouachita Mountains). This guide covers all bases for the adventurer looking to discover the natural world, offering maps, information on camping, historical points of interest, and travel services. (Falcon Press, 1996) \$15.95

Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers: A Falcon Field Guide • Doug Ladd

With beautiful photographs by Frank Oberle, this Nature Conservancy book provides all the information necessary for accurate identification of tallgrass prairie plants. (Falcon Press, 1995) \$19.95



Coffee Houses

Avenue A • Idabel

Beyond the lattes, Italian cream sodas, and specialty coffees (including White Russian, Vanilla Nut, and Mocha Java), Avenue A also serves a popular lunch special — a choice of two homemade soups, sandwiches, or salads. Open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily, closed Sunday. 101 S.E. Avenue A. (580) 286-5546

Iguana Café • Tahlequah

Although known for their hot drinks, this haven for Northeastern State University students fills more than just coffee cups. They serve deli sandwiches, soups, pizza, desserts, and there's even an imported beer selection. Open 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday. 500-A N. Muskogee Ave. (918) 458-0044

Patti's Java Joint • Bethany

College towns attract caffeine, and Bethany (home of Southern Nazarene University) is no exception. Built in 1993, it's a quick walk from campus for a good cup of joe. Open 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and closed Sunday. 3906 N. Donald. (405) 787-3906

Red Earth Mud • Guthrie

Red Earth Mud, located within Granny Had One Eatery Bar & Grill, offers the perfect coffee klatch setting and the coffee is pretty good, too. (In April, it moves one block north, so call for hours after then.) Open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. 113 W. Harrison. (405) 260-3441

J. D. MERRYWEATHER



'But if you want to have a good time, I don't care where you live, just load in your kids, and take some congenial friends, and just start out.'

Will Rogers,
August 31, 1930

**Jasmine Moran Children's Museum • Seminole**

A fun place for kids to learn and one of the largest children's museums in the nation, this educational work environment allows children to practice being adults. Hands-on exhibits include a kids hospital and flight simulator. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and 1-5 p.m. Sunday. Admission: adults \$5, children \$3, under 3 free. 1714 S.H. 9 West. (405) 382-0950

Leonardo's Discovery Warehouse • Enid

Touted as an interactive art museum, Leonardo's fulfills every parent's fantasy. In the life science area, kids will find a workshop full of books, microscopes, salamanders, lizards, and toads (with supervision, kids can handle the live creatures). Another favorite is the space shuttle simulator. Leonardo's main attraction, however, is

Adventure Quest, a large outdoor science and learning playground with a wooden climbing area and three-story tube slide. Open 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, 2-5 p.m. Sunday. Adventure Quest hours: 12- 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, and 2-5 p.m. Sunday. Admission: \$5, under two free. 200 E. Maple. (580) 233-2787

Omniplex • OKC

Under one roof, the 350,000-square-foot Omniplex houses several museums, all childproofed and ready for action. The Kirkpatrick Science & Air Space Museum is a hands-on environment with over 350 science exhibits. New this year is a family space full of brain-teasing activities. The Red Earth Indian Center has art and cultural exhibits giving kids a look into Oklahoma's Native American history. Call for admission prices. 2100 N.E. 52nd. St. (405) 602-6664 or (800) 532-7652

For Kids...of All Ages

the stop of choice

Take the next exit to Love's and see why we're The Stop of Choice! With more locations throughout Oklahoma to serve you, we offer the highest quality gasolines for your automobile, and we have raised the standard when it comes to pampering travelers. Features like gift shops, 24-hour quick-serve restaurants, clean restrooms, and a dedication to fast, friendly service bring customers back again and again. Love's is everything you want in a travel stop.

*Celebrating Our
35th Anniversary*



Love's

Departures: A Day in the

DAY TRIPS



1 **Harold Stevenson**
painter



2 **Brita Haugland Cantrell**
director, Nature Conservancy of Oklahoma



3 **Suzanne and Michael Wallis**
authors of Songdog Diary: 66 Stories from the Road

Writers:
Twelve
Oklahomans
who also
answer to
artist,
athlete,
conductor,
coach, and
first lady

Mission:
Describe one
perfect day
here in
Oklahoma

Result:
Nearly two
weeks of
reasons to
clear your
calendar and
make a day
of it



8 **William Bernhardt**
novelist



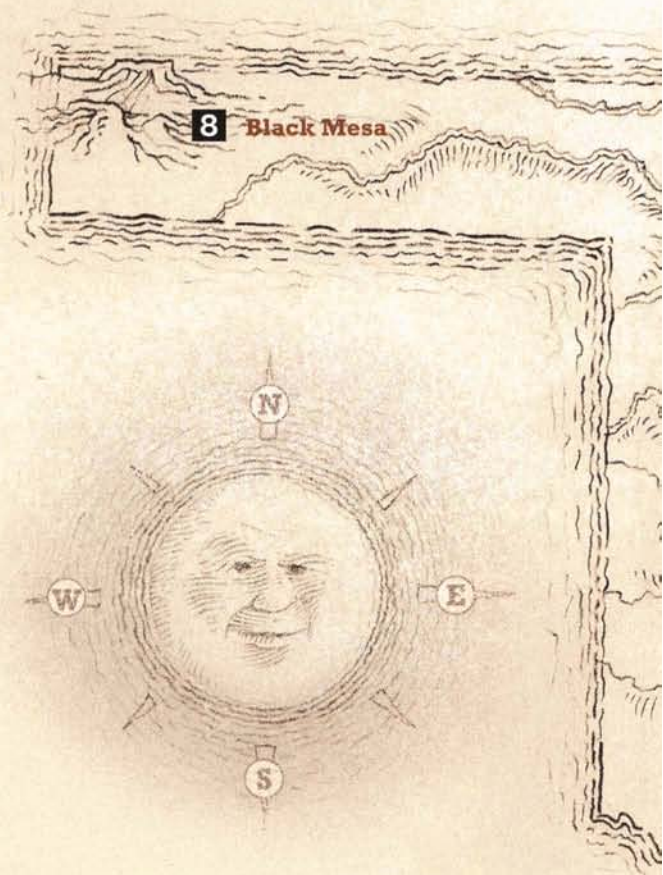
9 **Carol Crawford**
director, Tulsa Opera



10 **Ralph Marsh**
writer

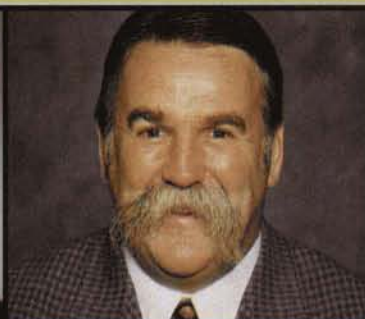


11 **Susan Savage**



Travels of...

DAY TRIPS

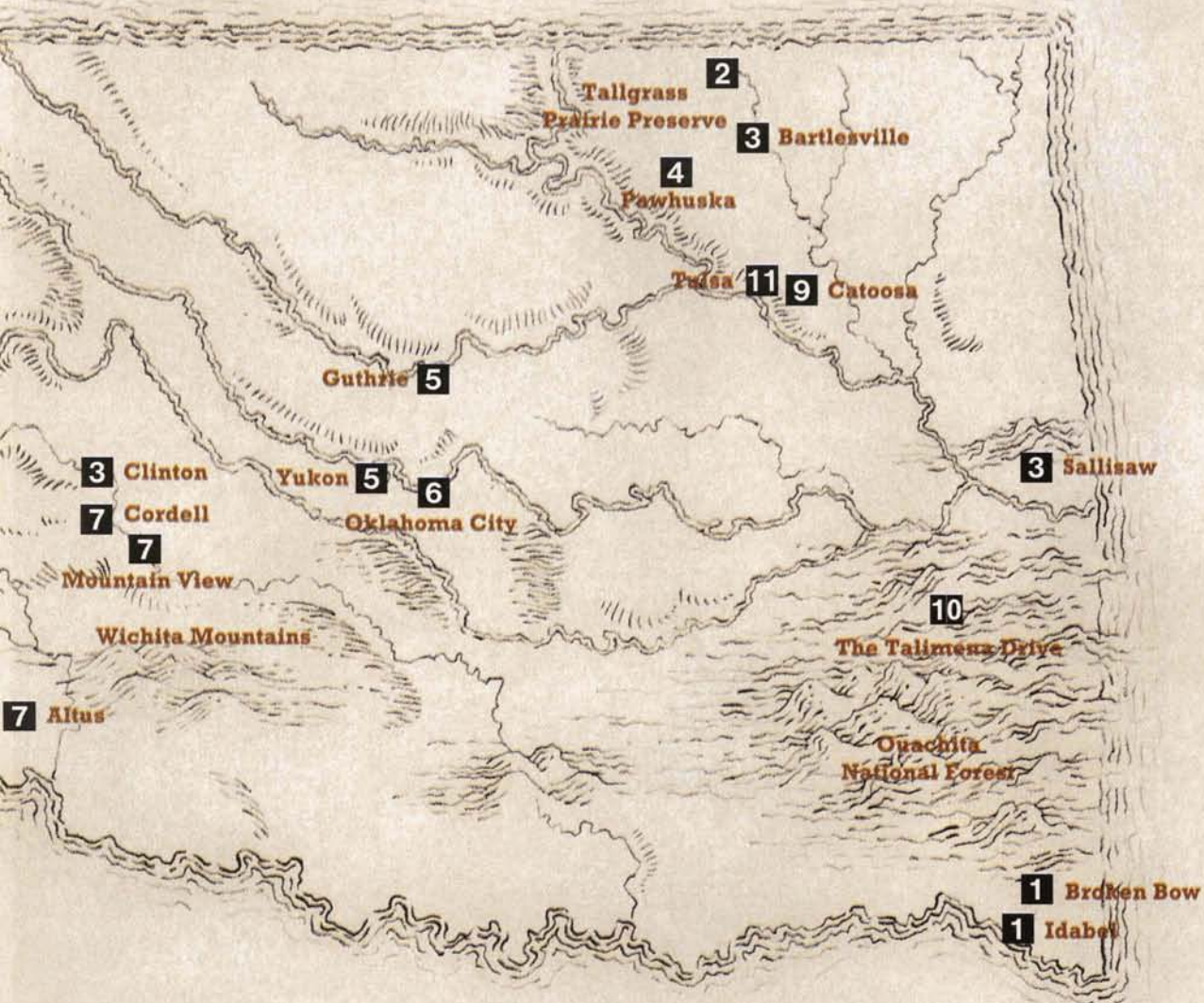


Lydia Loyd Wyckoff
former curator at Philbrook

5 Doug Sauter
coach, OKC Blazers

6 Bart Conner and Nadia Comaneci gymnasts

7 Cathy Keating
First Lady of Oklahoma



DAVID FITZGERALD

An aerial view of Rich Mountain in the Ouachita Mountains



JOHN ELK III

Driving through downtown Bartlesville; opposite page, Price Tower



Destination: The Talimena Drive

By Ralph Marsh

Notes:

You can take your children and show them how rivers begin with a trickle of water.

MY FAVORITE DAY TRIP IS A drive of less than fifty miles which begins little more than a mile from my house. It is a visit with a mountain—agreeable to children, old folks, rednecks, poets, fugitives from the city, and those with tendencies toward hermitism. Trip time is adjustable from a two-hour drive to a day trip, a week's vacation, or a lifetime obsession, depending on the degree to which you slip and fall into the spell. Privately, I call the drive Faerieland Loop because it embraces mountain vistas that flutter the stomach and unclog the soul of its deepest dreads.

The loop starts fifteen miles south of Heavener at Hillbilly Junkshun, a rawboned café, country store, motel,

and zoo. From there, U.S. 259 snakes up the side of Spring Mountain to S. H. 1, where a right turn will launch you onto the Talimena Scenic Byway, taking you along the backbone of Rich Mountain. On your left is the Robert S. Kerr Arboretum, boasting a nature center and self-guided trails interpreting the natural world of the forest (and the only restrooms on the whole route).

Make your way to Arkansas S. H. 88, which drops off the mountain abruptly from a point within sight of the Queen Wilhelmina State Lodge. This is Rich Mountain Divide, 1,600-foot elevation. Two major rivers start here and go in opposite directions. You can take your children and show them how rivers begin with the trickle

of water that comes from a spring and begins Black Fork, the major tributary of the Poteau River, flowing west toward Oklahoma. Almost within sight, the Ouachita River begins and flows east through Arkansas.

Once you have been formally introduced to the mountain, let the acquaintance deepen. Make it one of those special times when the autumn colors are gone, the hunting seasons past, and the motorcyclists are off coasting other vistas. Then there descends a profound feeling, more sensed than heard, of something great breathing.

Hillbilly Junkshun, (918) 653-2128. The Robert S. Kerr Arboretum, (918) 653-2991. Queen Wilhelmina State Lodge, (800) 264-2477.

Destination: The Road

By Suzanne and Michael Wallis

Notes:

We stick to timeworn paths such as the Chisholm Trail, the remnants of the historic Santa Fe Trail, or the Texas Road.

NO MATTER WHERE WE ARE—in the remote reaches of the Panhandle or in the forests of old Indian Territory—we often find ourselves traveling roads with no name. We stick to timeworn paths such as the Chisholm Trail, the remnants of the historic Santa Fe Trail, or the Texas Road. We search out our beloved Route 66—America's main street and the mother road of bittersweet memories. No matter where the roads may lead us, none of them has turned out to be a dead end.

From our home in Tulsa, we sometimes escape to a weekend retreat in Bartlesville at the Hotel Phillips, a comfortable haunt with no shortage of style and grace. From the hotel, it is only a short walk to Frank Lloyd Wright's

1956 glass and copper Price Tower or to historic Cherokee Avenue and the restored mansion of oil baron Frank Phillips. Afterward, we usually cruise into the nearby Osage country and pause at Woolaroc, Phillips's ranch retreat and now a refuge for history, culture, and folklore.

Far to the west in Clinton, just across from the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, the presence of Elvis Presley can be felt at the Best Western-Tradewinds. In the room that the King favored during his early cross-country jaunts, we lounge on the curve of the original

leather couch and recall the music that ushered us into the rambunctious 1960s.

Frequently we return to the burial place of Charles Arthur "Pretty Boy" Floyd in Akins Cemetery, eight miles northeast of Sallisaw in Sequoyah County. In that picturesque graveyard on October 28, 1934, the young bandit was laid to rest.

But no matter where we travel in Oklahoma, we strike it rich.

Hotel Phillips, 821 S. Johnstone, (918) 336-5600. The Price Tower, (918) 336-4949. Frank Phillips's home, 1107 S.E. Cherokee, (918) 336-2491. Woolaroc, (918) 336-0307. Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, (580) 323-7866.



Destination: The Lodge at Diamond Bar-D Ranch in Catoosa

By Carol I. Crawford



Notes: *The Lodge has an uncanny ability to nurture calm as soon as you pass through its doors.*

SEVERAL TULSA FRIENDS RECOMMENDED the Lodge to me with an enthusiasm that bordered on the fanatic. Men in particular, both young and old, waxed poetic about this establishment with a simple, "It's so cool; you gotta go there." I visited the Lodge, a mere forty minutes from downtown Tulsa, last year. Situated on 4,000 acres, the stone structure is part of a large outdoor sporting complex which hosts championship clay ranges, a 112-acre fishing lake, managed hunting fields for quail, chukkar, and pheasant, and lakes and marshes for waterfowl hunting. The Lodge itself is a world-class, bed-and-

breakfast inn originally built in 1929 as the private hunting lodge of Tulsa oil tycoon W.G. Skelly.

I was speechless the minute I passed through the doorway. The furnishings—primarily seventeenth and eighteenth century French and British with some nineteenth century Americana thrown in for good measure—were complemented by a cozy bar and billiards table and a roaring fire in a fully appointed fireplace. General Manager Ernie Legendre gave a personal tour of the eight upstairs rooms. Each bedroom has its own theme, with carefully chosen antiques selected to reproduce the decor of hunting lodges throughout the world. Ralph Lauren linens and thick bathrobes lay across each bed.

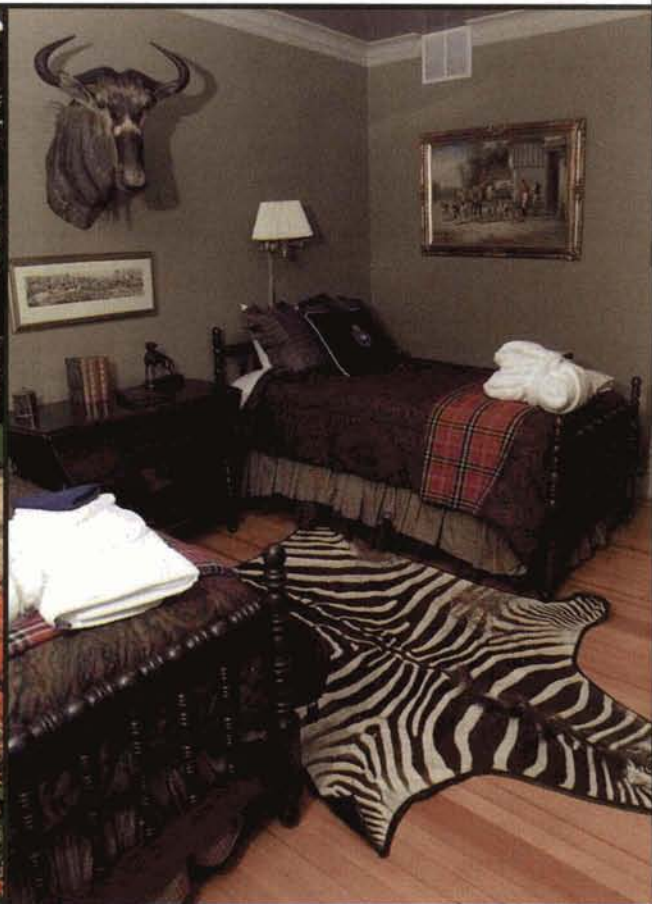
There is no menu at the Lodge's restaurant since each meal is a separate creation of Chef Paul Caplinger. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are served by reservation only. The salad was simple yet elegant followed by a delicious pheasant soup. The entrée was a mixed grill of fresh salmon and quail. For dessert? A sublime chocolate cake garnished with a strawberry sauce. For those so inclined, complimentary cigars are served with coffee.

If you need a break from the fast lifestyle most of us live, the Lodge has an uncanny ability to nurture calm as soon as you pass through its doors.

Rooms start at \$149 for a double (full breakfast included). Make reservations at least three weeks in advance, (918) 266-5544.

PHOTOGRAPHY THIS PAGE BY KELLY KERR

Above, the Lodge's veranda; at left, a view from the garden, and a safari-style bedroom



FRED MARVEL

The Osage
Hills State
Park; below,
downtown
Pawhuska



Destination: Pawhuska

By Lydia Wyckoff

Notes:

These charming buildings not only tell us about our past but also about our present.

I LIKE TO GO TO PAWHUSKA VIA Skiatook, through the pecan groves and then up into the Osage Hills. These hills embrace the center of the Osage Nation. Pawhuska, an agency town, is far more than just another "boomtown" built in the 1920s when oil was king and the Osage was the richest nation in the world. It is a town which tells us about ourselves and our past.

Indian camp, the heart of Native American life in Pawhuska, is separated from the town by the railroad tracks, which once served to divide the "uncivilized" from the "civilized." According to European-American reasoning at the turn of the century, Indians could become civilized if they became educated Christians. Immediately across the train tracks then

are the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church (with twenty Bavarian stained-glass windows depicting prominent Osage families) and the old school.

On Grandview Avenue stands the complex from which the U. S. government exercised its authority. They reflect what I call the Bureau of Indian Affairs school of architecture. These solid, hand-cut stone buildings are found at Indian agencies from Kansas to Arizona. Unfortunately the building for the girls' school has been torn down, but its chapel remains as the Osage Tribal Museum.

The residential area of Pawhuska is particularly beautiful. At the corner of Prudom and Thirteenth Street stands a

white Victorian revival house with a wraparound porch. The corner of Fourteenth is dominated by a magnificent prairie style house. Stout 1920s villas with their carriage houses and servants quarters line Leahy.

Down Main Street is the restored opera house, the Constantine Theatre. The ornamentation on either side of the entrance hints at the Roaring 1920s. Through materials, ornament, and placement, these charming buildings not only tell us about our past but also about our present.

The Osage Tribal Museum, 819 Grandview Ave., (918) 287-4622. The Constantine Theatre, (918) 287-5148.



HARVEY PAYNE

JOHN ELK III

The basalt-capped plateaus of Black Mesa; below, a collared lizard



Destination: Black Mesa

By William Bernhardt

Notes: *Black Mesa might not be Kilimanjaro, but it is Oklahoma's highest point — 4,973 feet above sea level.*

SINCE I READ HEMINGWAY'S *THE Snows of Kilimanjaro* as a teenager, I've dreamed of climbing Africa's highest summit. Now that I'm an adult (arguably anyway), conquering Kilimanjaro remains a paramount goal—but one that has had to be sublimated to more pressing concerns like feeding my children and meeting book deadlines. When a good friend told me about an expedition to climb Black Mesa, however, I immediately seized upon it. Black Mesa might not be Kilimanjaro, but it is Oklahoma's highest point—4,973 feet above sea level. And it's only a quick trip from Tulsa. *What a deal*, I thought. I was already lacing up my hiking boots.

My family was less enthusiastic. Although my wife had suggested that we

take some kind of trip to celebrate our tenth anniversary, oddly enough, she opined that this was not what she'd had in mind. Mind you, Kirsten is a trouper; we've been trekking together through the Nepalese Himalayas. But somehow, a long hike in the middle of an Oklahoma summer, was not the mental image she conjured up when she heard the word "vacation." Harry, my seven year old, was more enthusiastic. He likes to hike, preferably to either a Sonic or a Quik-Trip. Furthermore, Black Mesa offered, in addition to a good long hike, ancient dinosaur tracks embedded along Carrizo Creek. And the motel where we would stay in Clayton, New Mexico, had a

swimming pool. In seven-year-old parlance, this was a win-win vacation.

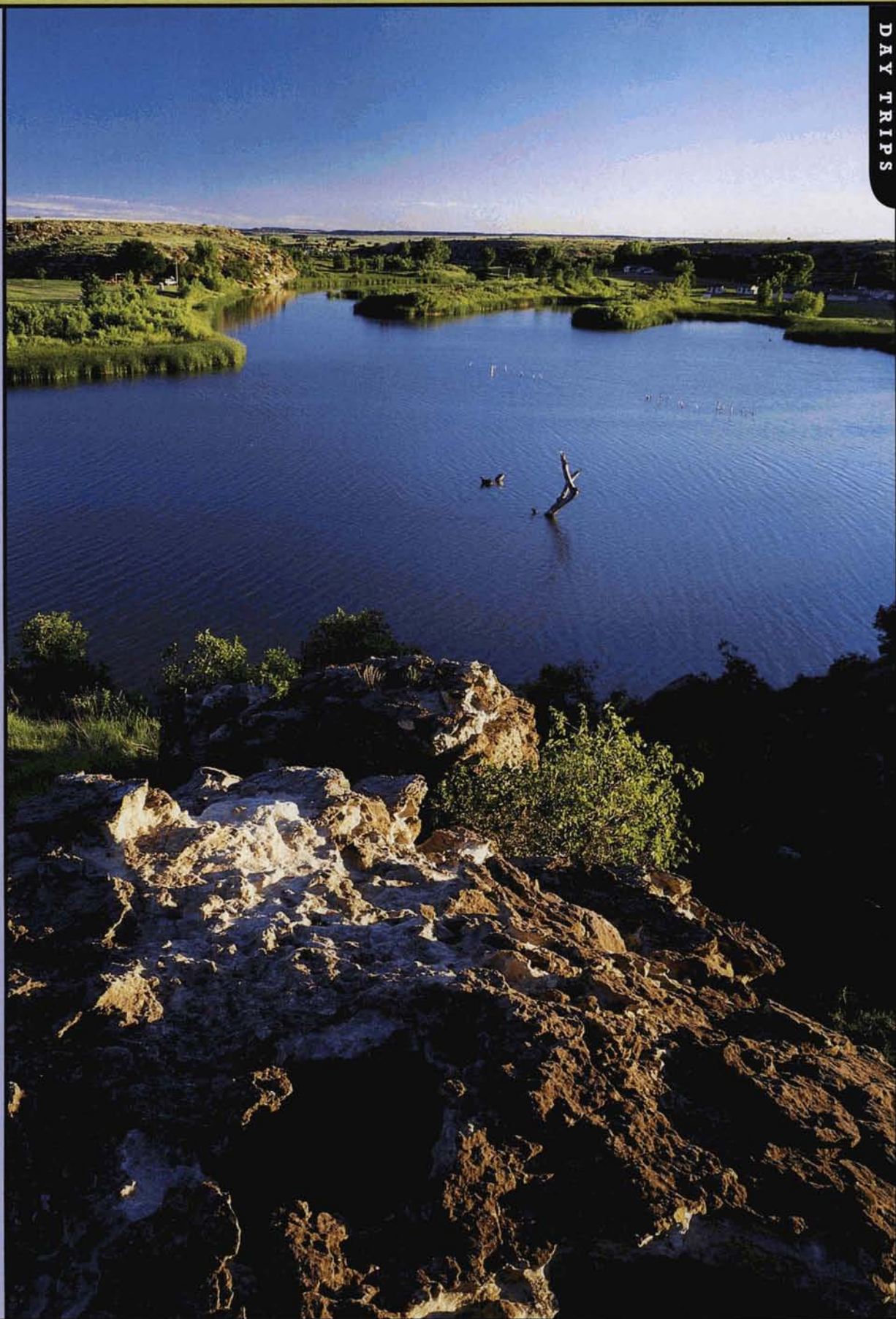
We arrived Saturday morning with a group of Nature Conservancy devotees, most of whom, I noted, looked disturbingly buff and sported spiffy canteens, backpacks, and other slick hiking gear. My slightly torn cutoffs started looking a bit silly, although I remained proud of my Thoreau baseball cap.

Despite the temperature threatening to creep into the three digits, it was a beautiful summer day on the shortgrass prairie. The slopes of Black Mesa sported juniper shrub oaks and piñons. The naturalists in the group pointed out the blue grama, buf-



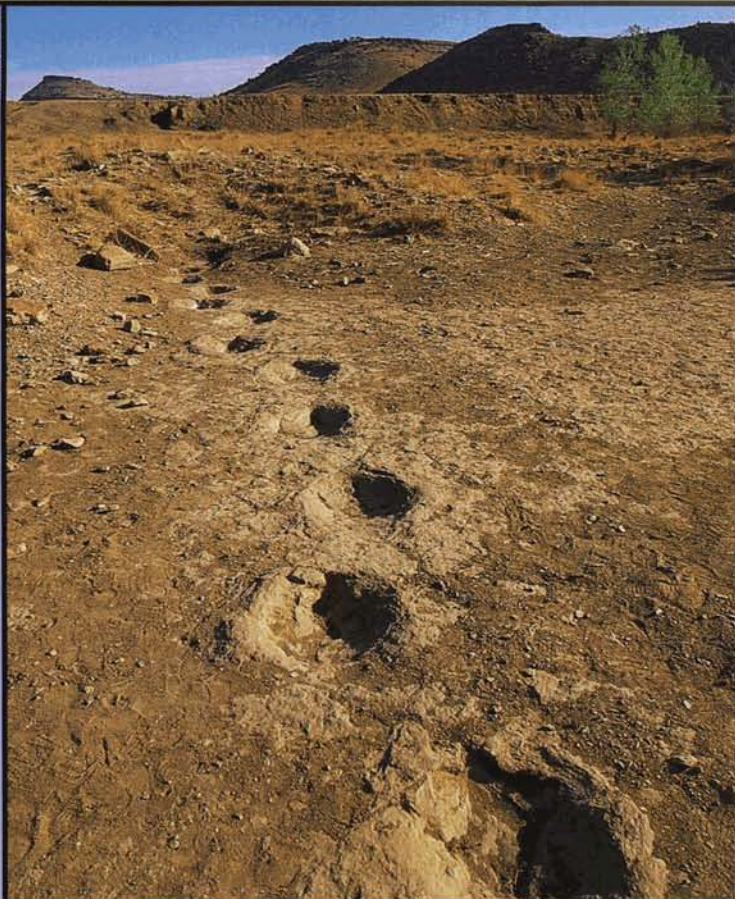
JOHN ELK III

DAVID FITZGERALD



**Lake Etling
in Black
Mesa State
Park**

JOHN ELK III



**Rock-
embedded
dinosaur
tracks along
Carrizo
Creek**

falo grass, and grindella and bluestem grasslands. Another hiker captured (then released) exotic lizards, delighting Harry. Overhead, we spotted scaled quail, black-billed magpies, and piñon jays. Harry even spotted a mule deer in the distance. It was a glorious adventure.

For a little while, Harry started to notice what had been apparent to me from the outset—that it was very hot here. He wanted a drink. Happily, I had an Evian bottle at the ready.

"I don't want water," Harry said earnestly. "I want Mountain Dew."

"Sorry, son. You don't have soft drinks on adventures. Just water."

"Then let's go to Sonic."

"We can't go to Sonic. We're hiking up a mountain."

He thought for a moment. "Will there be a Sonic on the mountain?"

"I don't think so."

He took the water, but he wasn't happy about it.

My wife, on the other hand, was be-

ing strangely quiet. Her eyes seemed focused on the horizon. As it turned out, this was not because she was so entranced by nature but because she had suddenly noticed how ... tall the mountain was.

"It isn't a mountain," I said, always trying to be helpful. "It's a basalt-capped plateau."

"Oh, good. Now I feel much better." Her eyes remained fixed. "We're climbing that?"

"Yup. All 4,973 feet."

"Lovely."

The first hour wasn't so bad, heat aside. The trail was mostly flat as we wound around the mesa to confront the most scalable side. I was starting to think of Black Mesa as a leisurely jaunt, rather like a charming friend giving us a good time for our holiday weekend.

Then the friend betrayed us.

"Is it my imagination," Kirsten asked, "or has this leisurely jaunt suddenly become very ... steep?"

This coincided almost precisely with

a request from my son: "Daddy, will you carry me?"

It wasn't Kirsten's imagination. We were going up. I suppose it was inevitable, since we were, technically speaking, climbing a mountain. Or a basalt-capped plateau. We were moving upward at an increasingly sharp angle, each step requiring more forward thrust. And Harry wanted a piggyback ride.

Manfully, I placed the young cherub, all sixty pounds of him, on my shoulders. And took a step. Then another step. Then another. My manly legs began to wobble. My manly vision began to blur. Sweat poured down my manly face.

We took a break, not because I'm the kind of wimp who would need a break just because he's hauling his kid up the side of a basalt-capped plateau, but because my wife was muttering something about the redness of my face and the fact that I was pitifully underinsured. We decided to take a breather for a minute. Which became two. Then three. Then four...

Three hours later, we did in fact make it to the top. And what we saw there was breathtaking. Even Kirsten had to admit the view was extraordinary, although she, like Harry, thought it would be much improved by a Sonic. Standing at the top, it seemed as though the whole state stretched out before us—trees, plains, and prairie as far as the eye can see.

From the summit, which is marked by a magnificent granite obelisk (who hauled that up there?), we could see Mount Capulin more than seventy miles away in New Mexico. The Dry Cimarron River lies to the south; North Carrizo Creek flows to the north and east. The two streams link at the eastern end of the mesa, just south of Robbers' Roost. I saw every spectacular sight there was to see. I had no choice. Kirsten insisted that we carefully drink it all in, etch each sight into our permanent memory banks, because it was lovely and, of course, because we were never going up there again.

The Black Mesa State Park office, (580) 426-2222. The trail to the summit is 8.2 miles roundtrip.



Notes: *Just put in a Garth Brooks tape, and you'll get in the mood to see a working ranch that I think is a piece of heaven.*

AH, A DAY OFF! NOTHING ON MY calendar. No practice, no appearances, and no pressure. What to do?

Weather is always a factor in Oklahoma when I'm deciding what to do and where to go. You have a lot of choices. Guthrie is a great destination. The Oklahoma Sports Museum is one of my favorites. The charm of Small Town, U.S.A. The antique shops line the streets. The friendly atmosphere the locals display and my favorite thing: angle parking with no parking meters. Explore, walk, and browse with no worries about a parking ticket on your vehicle. It's a nice change of pace.

But today is a day to head to Yukon in the territory of Oklahoma, as my friend Dale Robertson calls it. Express Ranches! The famous Chisholm Trail runs through the ranch. Just think, 800,000 head of cattle were trailed from Texas to Kansas on this land, which is located north of Yukon on Garth Brooks Boulevard. Just put in a Garth Brooks tape, and you'll get in the mood to see a working ranch that I think is a piece of heaven. Right at the end of the road is the home of Express Clydesdales. A beautiful honey-colored barn lies at the heart of the operation. Twelve of the breed's best black Clydesdales live there. The horses were purchased out of Canada (my native country) by ranch owner Bob Funk.

The barn was designed for this spe-

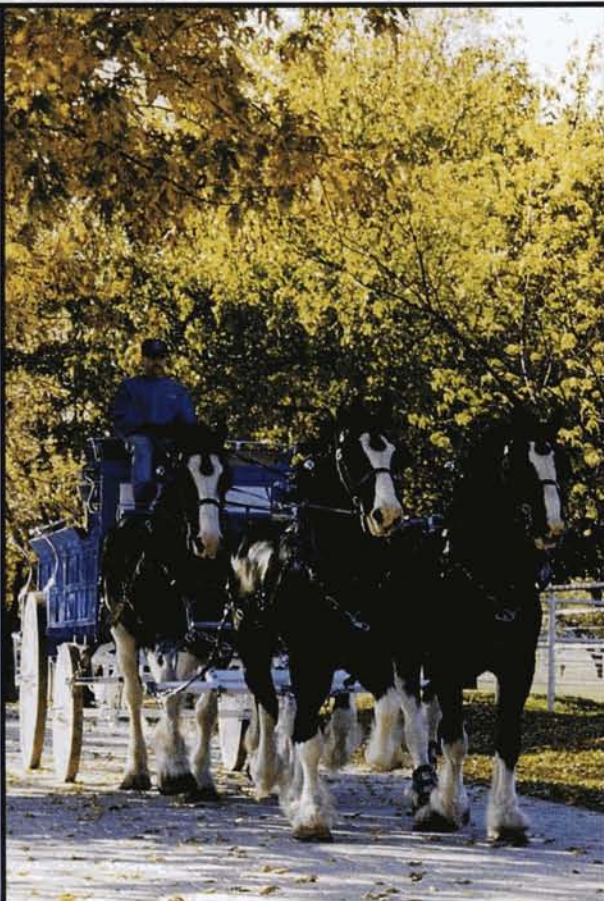
cial hitch of horses. There are ten box stalls and eight standing stalls lined with pine from Maine. The show wagon and the work wagon are also on display, along with the harness, which was made in Ohio.

My favorite thing is just to talk to the horses. After coaching hockey players every day, it's nice to have a conversation with one of the Clydes. (Maybe someday one of them will talk back.) The smell of horses, harness, and the great outdoors always brings a smile to my face.

The barn is usually open every day from 7 a.m. to sundown. (405)350-0043. The Guthrie Sports Museum, 307 W. Oklahoma, is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 1-4 p.m. Sunday. Free. (405) 260-1342.

PHOTOGRAPHY THIS PAGE BY JODY HARWOOD

Above, the new Clydesdale barn at Express Ranches; at left, Don Langille with the hitched team, and Auggie the Dalmatian among the new pine stalls



The Hall of Fame, and Olympic wear



Destination: International Gymnastics Hall of Fame

By Bart Conner

Notes: *Oklahoma has placed a gymnast on every Olympic team for the past two decades.*

NESTLED IN THE HEART OF downtown Oklahoma City lies a treasure yet to be discovered by many natives. Within sight of the Myriad Botanical Gardens and just a stone's throw from Bricktown is the stately First National Center, which houses the world-class International Gymnastics Hall of Fame. How did this amazing museum collection end up here in Oklahoma? Well, I like to think the presence of gymnasts like myself and my wife, Nadia Comaneci, along with Olympic champion Shannon Miller might have something to do with it, but Oklahoma has a rich gymnastics heritage of its own. Oklahoma has placed a gymnast on every Olympic team for the past two decades. No other state can make that claim.

Visitors can browse through items like the uniform worn by my famous better half for the opening ceremonies of the 1976 Montreal Olympics. During this competition, Nadia scored the first perfect ten and became the youngest ever to win the Olympic all-around title (doing it with a record score that actually included seven perfect tens). The first world championship gold medal won by Swiss inductee Jack Gunthard and the torch used to light the flame at the 1984 games are just a few of the other items on display. Last year, artist Leroy Nieman placed eight pieces from his private collection on permanent display in the Hall. One of my personal favorites, though, is a bronze of *The Flair* by Richard

McDonald. The twenty-one-foot tall original of this piece greeted visitors at the Georgia Dome during the Centennial Games in Atlanta.

Check out the IGHF web page at www.ighf.com, but don't miss the real thing. Every time we visit, something new has been added. The last time, it was a set of antique parallel bars used for competition in the early 1900s. Perhaps the best news is that while the Hall of Fame is in its temporary location, there is no charge for admission. Open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the facility will eventually be housed along the new Bricktown Canal. Call (405) 235-5600 for more information, and don't be surprised if you see us there.

DAVID FITZGERALD

**The
Tallgrass
Prairie
Preserve at
sunrise**



Destination: Tallgrass Prairie Preserve

By Brita Haugland Cantrell

Notes:

The trail winds away in the distance, skimming the ridge, and affording views of undisturbed prairie in all directions.

THE SUN THREATENS TO RISE over the hills of Osage County just as I drive into the Nature Conservancy's Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. Green hills dotted with wildflowers flow across these prairie hills as far as the eye can see. The quiet envelops me. When I need to recharge my spiritual batteries, this is one of my favorite day trips.

Two plump male prairie chickens are silhouetted against the sky. I roll down my window. Shaking off sleep, they toss their heads and flex their wings. Then a cluster of females appear, purposefully ignoring the males. The males drop their heads, spin, stomp their feet, and cry a melancholic ode to the winds. "Woo-woo, woo-woo." The guttural song floats across the silent morning hills.

Along the road that traverses the 38,000-acre nature preserve, the "bison loop" drive leads me to a herd of buffalo, now numbering close to 800 in total population. Caramel-colored calves with wobbly knees graze with their mama close by.

Parking at the trailhead, I pick up one of the guides from the kiosk and begin to climb the rocky slope. The trail winds away in the distance, skimming the ridge, and affording views of undisturbed prairie in all directions. Dickcissels call from stands of spring wildflowers and remaining winter grasses. Wild indigo blooms in white and blue. Wild strawberries emerge at the trail's edge.

The Nature Conservancy is recreating a functioning tallgrass prairie ecosystem here, the only preserve in the state large enough to support the natural forces of fire and bison that shaped the tallgrass ecosystem. Tallgrass previously dominated America, covering more than 142 million acres, but now less than 10 percent remains. Over 750 plant species have been found on this rocky soil, and the dynamic, wild system blooms vigorously.

The Tallgrass Prairie Preserve headquarters is open dawn to dusk and is staffed from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, (918) 287-4803.

DAVID FITZGERALD



Destination: Main Street

By Cathy Keating



FRED MARVEL

Notes:

Those new-old buildings say a lot about a town's pride in itself. They say 'Welcome.'

TODAY, I'M ON THE ROAD TO MAIN Street—three of them, actually, in Cordell, Mountain View, and Altus. I'm eager to see what these communities have done to bring back their downtown districts.

9:30 a.m.: Cordell is one of the top Main Street projects in Oklahoma, with a wall full of awards to prove it. Not long ago they passed the \$1 million mark in private reinvestment in downtown. They've fixed up building facades and rehabilitated some old buildings. Things are booming here. They really roll out the welcome... several hundred

people, a wonderful children's choir.

11:30 a.m.: Rolling on to Mountain View, nibbling lunch on the way. On the edge of town, I stop to greet some bubbly three year olds throwing flowers in front of the car. At the welcoming ceremony, I greet the band, the cheerleaders, Indian dancers, a cowboy poet, and what looks like most of the town. Mountain View is the smallest Oklahoma community with an active Main Street program, but it just may be the most energetic. Wow, what a welcome!

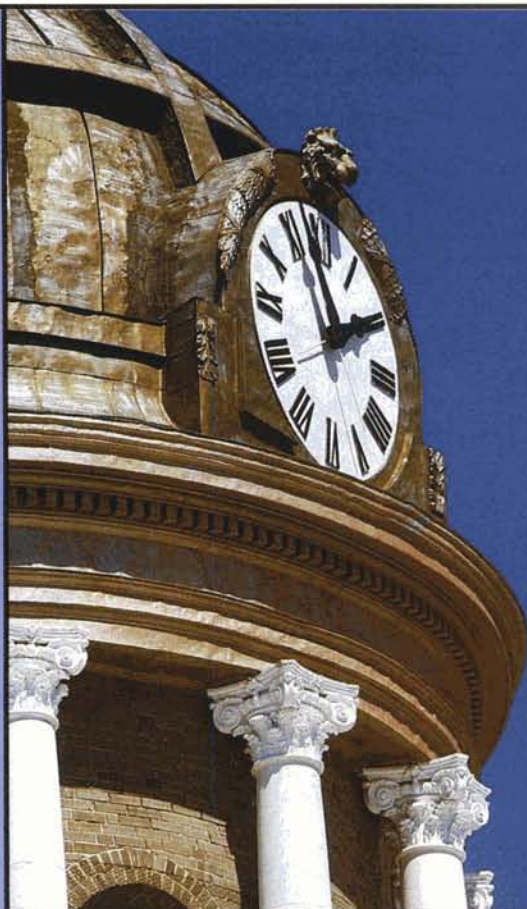
2:45 p.m.: Off to Altus. The property owners here have already invested \$3 million to resurrect the north side of the Courtyard Square. I am told that before restoration began, downtown had a vacancy rate of one-third; now

it's zero. They have sixty-three new businesses downtown, with 150 new jobs. The flag ceremony is moving and reflects the kind of genuine patriotism you'd expect from a town with a military base.

5:30 p.m.: What an elegant reception! Signed more than 250 books [*Our Governors' Mansions*], greeted everyone. It's 7:30 before we hit the road for home. It's been a delightful, wonderful, encouraging day. I love what Oklahoma is doing with its Main Streets. I wish every tourist rolling into these towns could be greeted like I was. In a way they are; those new-old buildings say a lot about a town's pride in itself. They say "Welcome."

Main Street Authority, (405) 815-5115.

Above, the Washita County Courthouse in Cordell; at left, the courthouse's circa 1911 clock tower and a view of its main stair-way



FRED MARVEL



H. PHILLIPS KLEWER

KIM BAKER



At left, uplifted rock along Broken Bow Lake, the Lower Mountain Fork River; below, the Barnes-Stevenson House

KIM BAKER



Destination: Broken Bow and Idabel

By Harold Stevenson

Notes: *The natives—I am one—are hospitable, offer diamonds in the rough, sometimes eccentrics, and definitely unforgettable.*

BY NATURE A HOMING PIGEON, I invariably find my way back from New York, Paris, or London to Idabel in southeastern Oklahoma. I still live in the house where I was born. Idabel—part of Choctaw Nation from 1832 to 1907—has never changed for me. In my mind's eye, I can still see the original buildings now demolished. Visit the Barnes-Stevenson House—a Victorian masterpiece built in 1912 for Thomas Jefferson Barnes, the first judge in McCurtain County. (More than \$50,000 was spent to restore it to its turn-of-the-century elegance after I sold it to the city in 1987.)

Nearby Broken Bow Lake is man-made and even more spectacular—I speak from experience—than the world

famous lake in Kandy, Sri Lanka, reputed to be the most extraordinary man-made body of water in the world. I can swim if I don't have to swim very far, rather like Scarlett O'Hara shooting a pistol. Actually I'm afraid of water, but Broken Bow Lake is very seductive. Any exposure to this sea of blue water is worth the trip to Little Dixie. On the way to the lake, stop to eat at Tootie's by the Lake Restaurant. You can't miss it, and if you're there on a weekend, don't miss Friday's night seafood buffet.

The natives—I am one—are hospitable, often diamonds in the rough, sometimes eccentrics, and definitely unforgettable. That's why I come back to

paint portraits of the people. Four and five generations of some families have posed for me. Some folks say the attraction to this part of Oklahoma is the water, and I agree. Some people pass through and never leave.

I also have a house in the snobbish Hamptons (Long Island, New York), where tourism is discouraged in order to preserve peaceful isolation. You won't find any of that down here in McCurtain County.

The Barnes-Stevenson House, 300 S.E. Adams, is open by appointment, (580) 286-6314. Tootie's by the Lake, U.S. 259 N and Stevens Gap, (580) 494-6791. Beavers Bend State Park, (580) 494-6300.



JOHN ELK III

FRED MARVEL

Looking up
in downtown
Tulsa, and
the azaleas
at Woodward
Park



Destination: Tulsa

By Susan Savage

Notes:

*Still thriving but now in an urban landscape,
the Arkansas River flows through every Tulsan's life.*

IN THE NORTHWEST QUADRANT OF Tulsa, at the intersection of Easton and Vancouver Streets, stands a small obelisk erected in honor of Washington Irving. In 1832, he ventured through Indian Territory, a trip chronicled in his book, *A Tour on the Prairies*. During his journey, he crossed the Arkansas River near the spot where the Red Fork [now Cherry Creek] flowed into the then-turbulent river. He and his companions took a stretch of the Osage Hills as a landmark to guide them. (For a great view, go to the Vista Room at Gilcrease Museum.) "The broad, sandy shore ... was intersected by innumerable

tracks of elk, deer, bears, raccoons, turkeys, and waterfowl," he wrote.

Still thriving but now in an urban landscape, the Arkansas River flows through every Tulsan's life. A jogging and biking trail along its east bank offers refuge to all, even for the least tern, which can retreat to a sandy island preserve near Galveston and Riverside Drive. South along the river (near Riverside and Thirty-first Streets) is a pedestrian bridge made from a converted railroad trestle. Fishermen are often successful here with striped bass, sometimes spotting the formerly endangered paddlefish. (This filter feeder—related to the large sturgeon of Russia—bears

one of the highest grades of caviar.)

About ten minutes away from the river is Tulsa's largest park, Mohawk, which contains the Oxley Nature Center. An 800-acre managed wildlife habitat with twelve miles of trails and two lakes, Oxley is also a permanent home to coyotes, bobcats, beavers, and deer.

In the spring, the azalea blooms of the gardens at Gilcrease and Woodward Park dazzle the eye. Woodward is more naturalized, but both feature thousands of azaleas in a variety of colors complemented by spring bulbs and blooming trees like dogwood, cherry, and Bradford pear—each adding its own colors to nature's palette.

Tulsa Parks and Recreation, (918) 596-7275.



Choctaw Nation



Choctaw Nation Capitol and Museum, Tuskahoma



Chief Gregory E. Pyle

Asst. Chief Mike Bailey

Annual Labor Day Festival Thursday through Monday September 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, 1999

Since 1884, Choctaws have gathered at the Choctaw Nation Capitol Grounds for a Labor Day Holiday. We have ballgames of all kinds, gospel singing, country music, Regional Finals All-Indian Rodeo, cultural demonstrations, including stickball and Choctaw dancing, great food, and lots more. Monday traditionally features a free BBQ and the Chief's State of the Nation Address.

For more information call toll free: 1-800-522-6170 or (580) 924-8280
or log on to www.choctawnation.com



The Choctaw Capitol pictured is a museum and a gift shop, and also houses the Tribal Court.

Everyone is welcome to the Annual Labor Day Festival hosted by the Choctaw Nation at Tuskahoma, Oklahoma.

"Ishla-Chi - You all come."

Garden of Stone

By Gary Lantz • Photography by Michael Hardeman

A MAIN PATHWAY INTO THE BACKCOUNTRY PORTION OF THE WICHITA MOUNTAINS Wildlife Refuge begins benignly enough below the abrupt backdrop of Elk Mountain. You amble west along traces of an old road, under sparse oaks, beside a small pond, and through a shallow prairie valley where bedrock outcrops sprout little sausage-shaped cactus. Slivers of crystal pop to the surface where buffalo hooves have churned furrows in the pale brown earth. It takes a bit of walking through open country before the highway sounds fade and the full impact of the Charons Garden Wilderness snaps into focus. Suddenly you look up and the landscape is locked in the embrace of wraparound rock: cleft rocks, round rocks, smooth rocks, stacks upon stacks of rocks, balanced rocks, rocks sticking straight up into the air, rocks that have—over time—rolled downhill like rivers. Hiking here means sifting your way through towers, turrets, and battlements of rock along trails worn by bison, elk, and deer. Animal paths press into the dirt out of both expediency and habit, the traces connecting grazing meadows, oak groves, and streams which offer reliable water in narrow valleys. There are no signs or painted trail blazes to follow, just the reliable ruts laid down by big animals prone to wander.

Charons Garden is a small wilderness at just under 6,000 acres. Yet in a state where public lands are scarce and designated wilderness an anomaly—nearby Missouri has 65,000 acres of official wilderness, New Mexico has 1.3 million acres, and Oklahoma a little over 19,000 acres—each of these acres is as precious as they are rugged and difficult to traverse (especially now that age has set up residence in some of our Baby Boomer backs and a half century of added weight has turned once stout knees to rubber).

But still we go. Younger converts to the hard-to-verbalize allure of wildlands bound from boulder to boulder like mountain goats, while we old goats take our time and allow rusty joints ample opportunity to readjust. Some of us, in fact, are content to rest often and stare off into space. As the late Wallace Stegner—wilderness champion and chronicler of the western landscape—once pointed out, wild country is a spiritual tonic for Americans of all ages, even if the infirm can only walk up to the edge and look in.

Wilderness represents what has been called the geography of hope, that slightly magical amalgam of

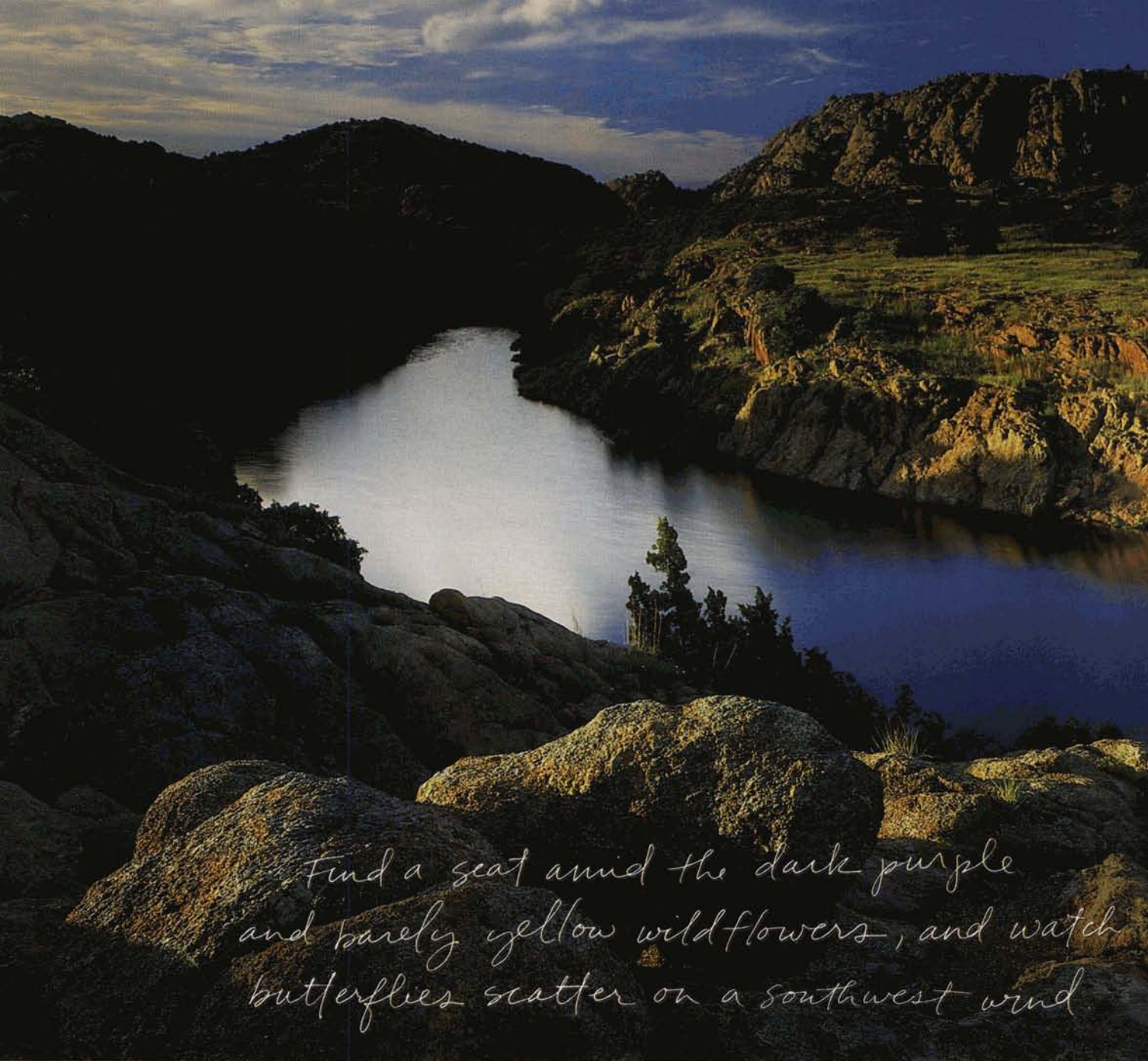
physical and metaphysical that so many of us find difficult to articulate yet easy to defend. That is exactly what this rockpile in the corner of Oklahoma's oldest and most spectacular wildlife refuge reveals: a small slice of that ancient and mysterious America as it always was, hopefully as it always will be.

Charons Garden is a strange name for a wilderness in the heart of the old Kiowa and Comanche hunting range. After all, Charon was the boatman in Greek mythology who rowed the souls of the dead across the River Styx to a land that ancient poets personified through tormented whispers and wretched moans.

Here in the Charons Garden of Comanche County, the torment is less literary yet equally classical in the way wind and water have carved away rock. It's a sculpting process that has continued tirelessly across most of time as we perceive it. Reducing this ancient upthrust to lonely spires and chimneys, the wind creates brooding boulders which balance atop stark benches of pale pink granite and later fill the valleys with rubble. Curving basins shaded by gnarled post oaks and dark cedar groves catch waterfalls born of



*The harsh exterior of the landscape
masks an extraordinarily delicate beauty.*



*Find a seat amid the dark purple
and barely yellow wildflowers, and watch
butterflies scatter on a southwest wind.*

trickling springs bubbling up from mountain flanks.

At first the sheer ruggedness of all this skeletal stone is intimidating, the distant vistas almost otherworldly. It's as if a slice of moonscape has fallen from the sky to perch amid the plains, providing refuge for rattlesnakes and old buffalo bulls that wander away to spend their final days in some secluded meadow.

After a while, the imposing outer face of the land softens somewhat. This shift in awareness literally comes on the heels of walking the stream courses, visiting the secluded springs, bushwhacking over ridges, and realizing—after gallons of sweat and scratches—that the harsh exterior of the landscape masks an extraordinarily delicate beauty.

Maybe that's why backwoods guides across the nation constantly hammer home a common litany: The first rule of wilderness travel is to take time to discover. Search for those golden pools guarded by scarlet dragonflies. Seek out shaded canyons draped with bright green ferns. Find a seat amid the

dark purple and barely yellow wildflowers, and watch butterflies scatter on a southwest wind. Study the artistry of cactus blooms or the seep of crimson through scattered oaks as autumn invades an ancient mountain range.

Hikers understand—yet rarely mention—that foot travel in the Wichitas or any other wild place generally begins with a faraway look, a summons to seek something awaiting over a hill or at the end of a creek or at the top of a rock that dares you to climb. An extraordinary psychological and physical freedom exists in the process of striking out across new country, wild country, just to see whatever may await in some dark cleft of stone.

The first documented contact between explorers and the Comanche and Wichita Indians living in and around the mountains occurred during the summer of 1834 when the Dodge/Leavenworth expedition left Fort Gibson (near Muskogee) to meet with the western plains Indians. The art-



ist George Catlin went along and produced a number of drawings of the area, including paintings of Wichita villages and Comanches hunting buffalo. This is probably the first "official" visit to the area, though rumor has it Spanish explorers were in the area long before, searching for gold. Also, traders from the New Mexico region, which was then still part of old Mexico, allegedly visited the area to trade for buffalo robes. Actually, I imagine there was commerce in these mountains for as long as there were people around to carry it out.

I USED TO VISIT CHARONS GARDEN OFTEN IN THE early 1970s—not long after the backcountry region became designated wilderness—back when the nation was still giddy from the first Earth Day. The environment was as trendy then as bell-bottom britches, and wildlands were earning protection faster than conservative legislators could howl in protest.

All of which was fine with me because I grew up on the sea-

scape prairies of northern Oklahoma, and the Wichitas were where I learned to love mountains. In fact, the Wichitas were the first mountains I ever saw, and at an early age I memorized the silhouette of each one through the window of a speeding pea green Studebaker bound for Texas.

In my twenties, I hiked here as often as I could, and the experiences remain like video excerpts filed away in an otherwise rusty memory. There was the morning the rain lifted and the clouds parted and a bright spring sun began to steam dry the slick bedrock on the flank of Elk Mountain. I heard my hiking companion gasp behind me and turned to see him point at his feet, where a torpid rattler was soaking up the metabolic benefits of a change in the weather.

A look around revealed not one but dozens of diamondbacks, seduced out onto the rock by a blast of energizing rays. We were sharing a huge slab of granite with a remarkable congregation of rattlesnakes, all lethargic like a fat dog on the Fourth of July.

We picked our way through the coils, much more gingerly than necessary, since the snakes remained inflexibly indifferent to our presence. Not a rattle, not a buzz, not even a shift into the predictable defensive position. It was as if oracles in that rattler den ordained that we were barely more than a momentary bother, then excused our clumsiness and granted us the freedom to pass. (We did, but not without a measurable rise in blood pressure.)

This experience may seem mild in relation to the backcountry encounters still to be had in the northern Rockies and Alaska, where the critters that bite are liable to keep right on chewing until they clean the bone. Still, being bitten by a rattler or even gored by a buffalo bull is a distinct possibility in the Wichitas, one missing from the average city park.

Sad to say, it wasn't just the small predators that were exterminated in Oklahoma prior to the establishment of the refuge in 1905. The last buffalo disappeared from the region in the late 1870s, about the same time the last elk was reportedly killed in the vicinity of Rainy Mountain. Buffalo were reintroduced to the refuge in 1907, the original fifteen animals a gift from the New York Zoological Society. Elk from the famed herd at Jackson Hole, Wyoming, were shipped south in 1911.

Were it not for visionary, conservation-minded President Theodore Roosevelt, it's very likely none of this would have ever happened. Roosevelt fought hard to establish a national system of forest preserves and refuges where a number of virtually extinct species would have a chance—and the necessary habitat—for recovery. The fifteen buffalo that founded the modern herd arrived in railcars at the stop in Cache, just a few miles southeast of the rugged Charons Garden breaks. Reporters noted that a large group of Indians gathered to camp near the holding pens next to the railway, where they awaited the return of the "Great Spirit's cattle." What a joyful reunion that must have been.

My reunion with Charons Garden Wilderness last autumn began with a flood of recollection. Standing on a granite ledge overlooking a waterfall, I reversed a quarter century of years in the same way you thumb back through a family photo album. Like yellowed but treasured pages, scenes from the past

*It's as if a slice of moonscape has fallen
from the sky to perch amid the plains.*



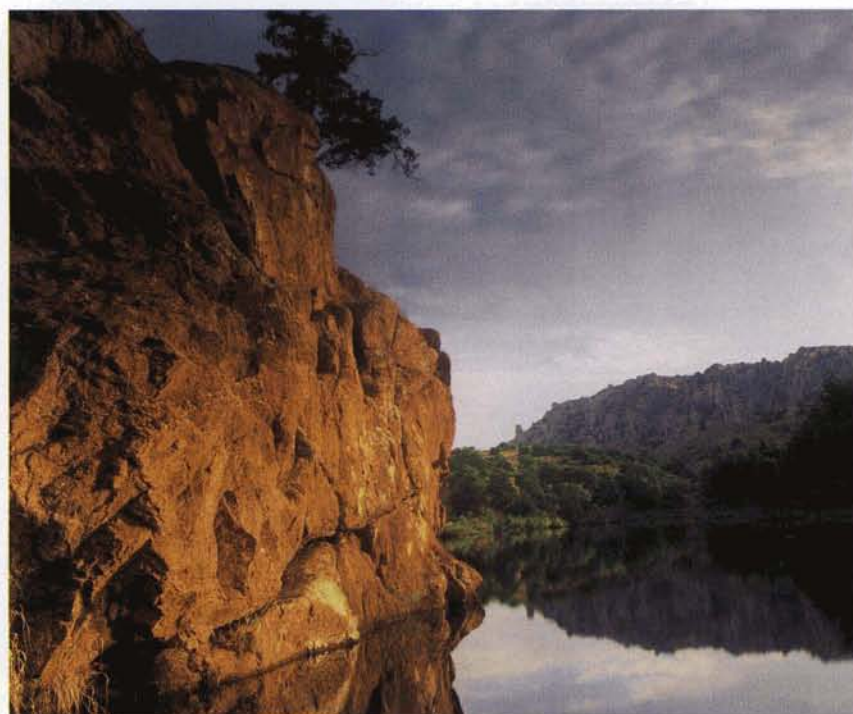
sprang to life. One long-ago October morning: the high-pitched, squeaky handle of a water pump grating upon the silence of a secluded campground, followed by the rage of a bull elk crashing through the blackjacks to battle what his ears and hormones interpreted as a rival's challenge.

Turn a page and the mind's eye reveals more: four eagles, flushed from the vicinity of Styx Canyon on a cold winter afternoon. A little valley deep with snow where five buffalo bulls are taking turns at jousting matches simply because it feels good. And the morning atop the summit of Elk Mountain when a pair of white-tail bucks, moseying along a narrow trail, suddenly slam on the brakes and skid to a stop as a huge bull elk steps out from behind a thick grove of red cedars and blocks their path.

All good memories, certainly, and now I have more to add. Recent recollections of ospreys in migration, or the shimmering orange and black of monarch butterflies descending to feed on autumn asters before battling strong headwinds en route to Mexico. Or the young buffalo bull, tossing up clouds of billowing dust as he rolls in a wallow. In a moment the animal rises to shake, then gallops like a quarter horse to another buffalo wallow at least a hundred yards away. There he rolls once again, raises more dust, then indulges in another madcap gallop as the vitality of healthy blood surges through a brain invigorated by a sudden cold snap and seasonal change.

These are the most natural of scenes, scenes that reaffirm that after decades little has changed here in the heart of Oklahoma's best wild place. It took some time to adjust, but after several days the old trails were familiar once more, the landmarks back in concert with what remains of my mental compass.

Maybe that's the best measure of wilderness: absence of change. The old bulls were bedded in the same little meadows, the creeks continued to ebb and swell with the vagaries of spring rains. More than anything else, there was still space and solitude. No signs, few fences, and not much more than the essence of things matter when you go to the country to be by yourself. Except, of course, for the company of a canyon wren dodging in and out of a nearly vertical river of rocks or the tremolo whinny from a flock of sandhill cranes circling low overhead. It doesn't take long, maybe twenty-five years at the most, to figure it out—time spent here requires a different set of priorities. 



Trip Planner

CHARONS GARDEN WILDERNESS, WICHITA MOUNTAINS WILDLIFE REFUGE, LAWTON

Getting There

Take I-44 to the Medicine Park exit north of Lawton, then continue west on Route 49 to the information center. Or exit U.S. 62 at the town of Cache west of Lawton and follow Route 115 to the Route 49 junction. Take S.H. 49 east approximately one-half mile to the center.

Recommended Hikes

A good way to warm up is on the Dog Run Hollow Trail System at French Lake just south of refuge headquarters. A trail to the top of Elk Mountain begins near the Sunset Lake picnic area. Go early for good wildlife viewing or early and late for outstanding sunrises and sunsets. Another excellent introductory trail begins at either the Post Oak/Treasure Lake or Sunset parking areas and follows a beautiful little stream that flows along the flank of Elk Mountain. A loop off this trail leads to the highest waterfall in the Wichitas. For backcountry hiking, take a compass and plot your own course along ridgelines, animal trails, or natural drainages.

Season

Peak hiking months are generally October through June. July, August, and sometimes a large part of September can be too hot for hiking.

Hazards

Summer heat, winter cold snaps, large wildlife, rattlesnakes, loose rocks, rugged terrain.

Maps & Guidebooks

A detailed map of the refuge and Charons Garden is available at the visitor information center (closed Tuesdays). The center also offers an excellent book by Edward Charles Ellenbrook, *Outdoor and Trail Guide to The Wichita Mountains of Southwest Oklahoma* (\$9.95).

Permits/Restrictions

Permits are required for overnight backpacking in the Charons Garden. Limit three days. Reservations are \$2 per person. No more than ten backpackers are allowed during any three-day period. Permits are available on a walk-in basis at refuge headquarters, by telephone, or through the mail. For additional information or to obtain a permit, write Refuge Manager, Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, Route 1 Box 448, Indianahoma, OK 73552, or call (580) 429-3222.



A Night to Remember

FOR SOME, SPENDING THE NIGHT AT A HOTEL IS A BURDEN, a reminder of too many days on the road and too many nights away from the family. But for others, a night in a hotel room can be a welcome and transporting experience. The guest—relishing in the anonymity and privacy of a comforting room—rests easy, certain that some concierge or innkeeper will attend to his needs. Fresh towels? They're on their way. Room service at midnight? Of course we'll put mustard on that club sandwich. For guest pampering in Oklahoma, editor in chief Louisa McCune and senior editor Nancy Woodard discovered why Tulsa's McBirney Mansion and Oklahoma City's Waterford Hotel are among the very best.

Photography by J.D. Merryweather

Editor's Note: Accommodations were provided by the hotels.





Perched atop a hill, the Tudor-Gothic style inn peers down upon the Arkansas River.



Previous pages, the Waterford Hotel's foyer and the Bishop's Suite in the McBirney Mansion; this page, above, McBirney's sitting room, left to right, co-owners Kathy Collins and Renita Shofner, the elegant dining room, and the wrought iron front door



THE MCBIRNEY MANSION

AT THE END OF AN EXHAUSTING WEEK, I FOUND MYSELF heading east on the Turner Turnpike, driving from Oklahoma City to Tulsa. Traffic was light, but a misty rain clouded the windshield. Nothing sounded quite right on the radio and, in fact, nothing at all seemed quite right.

Five minutes off the highway, the Arkansas River reflected the lights of Tulsa as I pulled into the drive of the 12,000-square-foot McBirney Mansion. Perched atop a hill, the Tudor-Gothic style inn peered down upon the river, the warm lights inside casting shadows of elms across the lawn. Through the front door, I left the rain, the highway, and the office far behind. Kathy Collins greeted me. "Welcome," she said effortlessly. "I'm so glad you made it. How was your drive?" I didn't bother her with the details.

Off the entryway—itsself reminiscent of centuries past—was a sitting room warmed by a glowing fireplace. Wine, ale, bottled water, and soda were generously available upon an antique bureau. On the coffee table, fruit and cheese. Sugared mushrooms—delicate and powdery and looking as though they'd been picked within the hour—sat in a porcelain bowl.

The mansion, built in 1927 for Irish immigrant and baseball player James McBirney and his wife Vera, has alternately housed a law firm and a medical library. Collins and co-owner Renita Shofner purchased the mansion in 1996.

The women gladly provided menus for all the local restaurants; never pushy, never limited in their suggestions, their ample knowledge of Tulsa was at my disposal.

My accommodations—the three-room Bishop's Suite—were the largest in the mansion. The sitting room with a fireplace, bookshelves, and hide-a-bed couch looks out on the Arkansas River. Beyond that is the well-appointed bath with stone walls, a jetted bathtub, and a refreshing array of linens. The piece de resistance lay further: a king-size bed with a spread to match the room's heavy drapes, a wall of books, a chaise longue, a French antique vanity, and—again—an unmatched view of the river.

Sleeping should not be underrated and—clichéd but true—I slept like a child. Do you remember how a bed felt when you were little? It was big, too big. And not too soft or too hard, just enough to float on (of course, I was lighter then). The blankets, piled high, were topped by a comforter thick enough to feel like a magically soft lead weight. A night to remember? Yes. The finest inn, hotel, or bed-and-breakfast I've ever stayed in? Without a doubt.

—Louisa McCune

The McBirney Mansion, 1414 S. Galveston, offers eight luxury rooms and all have private baths. Rates start at \$119; the Bishop's Suite costs \$225 per night. All prices are for double occupancy and include a full breakfast served in the dining room or guest room. Daily newspapers, fresh flowers, and off-street parking are routinely provided. The mansion also hosts wedding and corporate events. For reservations, call (918) 585-3234.



THE WATERFORD HOTEL

IT JUST SO HAPPENED THAT I DREW THE WATERFORD for this assignment. Odd because my husband and I stayed there ten years ago on our wedding night. So a decade later almost to the very night and nine months pregnant with our first child, Darren and I celebrated at the Waterford Hotel once again.

A decade ago, I enjoyed a cozy regular room as part of the bridal package; this time I stayed in the presidential suite that tops the hotel on the ninth floor. In some respects, it's difficult to compare the two experiences. Then, we were euphoric newlyweds without a thought about the size of the room. Now, we're euphoric, soon-to-be parents enjoying our last moments as a twosome in a sprawling suite (1,800 square feet) with everything from four balconies overlooking downtown Oklahoma City to an oval Jacuzzi that more than fits two people (even when one has a bulging belly).

The suite's amenities sound like a listing of the twelve days of Christmas: five phones (one in each of the two marble bathrooms), two televisions, two gas fireplaces (actual fire in the fireplaces would add more ambiance, but due to fire concerns, they're merely decorative), a dining room, kitchen, and two sitting areas. Built in 1984 and originally owned by Vista Hotels, the Waterford's facade is unchanged. But in 1996, Marriott purchased the Waterford and spent \$3 million in renovations—redoing everything from the guest rooms to the porte-cochere.

Before I ever even ventured up to our room, I enjoyed an incredible feast spread across many tables, a buffet which has become the Waterford's signature, especially on Sundays. Set in the light and airy Veranda Restaurant with ceiling to floor windows and white wicker chairs, buffet tables are laden with Nantucket poached salmon with dill sauce, stuffed lemon sole with shrimp and crabmeat, prime rib, cherries jubilee cheese blintzes, and Italian cream cake (this is just a sampling). While a jazz trio plays the favorites, guests return to the tables, selecting their next course.

The Waterford Lounge also packs in a crowd every Friday and Saturday night, where the Burton Band plays a mix of music to boogie to. Whether it's a night out on the town spent at the lounge or brunch in the veranda or an even bigger splurge with a stay in the presidential suite, the Waterford Hotel is still one of the state's most elegant retreats.

—Nancy Woodard

The Waterford Hotel, 6300 Waterford Blvd. in Oklahoma City, offers a "Two for Breakfast" package that includes a weekend night room and breakfast for \$99. While room rates vary, the presidential suite is always \$750 (don't expect any complimentary baskets of fruit or a bottle of champagne; there's only a token cardboard box with two bottles of water and a few airplane-sized bags of snacks, although there is a small box of chocolate truffles on the bed). The 197 guest rooms range between \$84 and \$129 per night, and the three smaller suites on the ninth floor usually fetch between \$99 to \$155. (405) 848-4782.





The suite's amenities sound like a listing of the twelve days of Christmas.



Above, the living area of the Waterford Hotel's presidential suite, left to right, Waterford Lounge's bartender Jason Carr, Roderick Carter and Wyatt Webb serve omelets, and salmon on the Sunday buffet

A Feast for the Palette

Canvassing Oklahoma's Museum Cafés



By Sheilah Bright

Photography By J.D. Merryweather

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN SPENDING THE DAY AT A MUSEUM required packing a sack lunch and toting a Thermos. But feasting your eyes on the masterpieces no longer means settling for that soggy ham and cheese with lukewarm milk afterwards. Some Oklahoma museum cafés now create cuisine that is a work of culinary art unto itself.

In Good Taste

Close your eyes at Philbrook Museum of Art's La Villa restaurant in Tulsa, and you may as well be gracing a 1920s dinner party in the Italianate villa of wealthy philanthropists Waite and Genevieve Phillips. Let your taste buds linger over pan-fried European quail or sun-dried tomato and mushroom pasta served with grilled chicken breast, fresh basil pesto, and white wine. Splurge on dessert, maybe white chocolate pecan pie or bread pudding with bourbon sauce. Indulge. After all, you are the guest of honor.

It's an easy transition, this step back in time. Graced by Philbrook's visual feast of architecture, gardens, and art collections, La Villa blends the elegance of yesteryear with a contemporary repertoire.

"When you are surrounded by beautiful art and architecture, you feel a certain responsibility. You want the food and the service and the attitude to be gracious and beautiful," says Novia Stice, manager of La Villa, a restaurant described as Philbrook's gallery for the culinary arts.

La Villa is truly an extension of the museum; Stice and his cooking professionals even match menu items to reflect Philbrook's featured exhibitions. For example, Chef Pete Guinn and his staff decked the menu with Mrs. Claus's cranberry walnut salad and Elf Tony's homemade ravioli to commemorate the

Festival of Trees holiday show. Plans are already under way for foods echoing themes of the "Green Woods & Crystal Waters: The American Landscape Tradition Since 1950" exhibition set to open September 12.

Creative flair isn't limited to the menu, which includes an extensive wine list. Luncheon plates rimmed with colorful designs of fruit and vegetable purées celebrate the season or the chef's creative mood, as do table settings. Besides lunch Tuesday through Sunday, including a spectacular Sunday brunch, La Villa hosts the Five O'Clock Muse from 5 to 7 p.m. every Thursday. Cocktails, conversation, and free hors d'oeuvres create a relaxing and lively meeting place with live music and "the canvas," where patrons unleash their own creativity via colored markers. The museum extends its operating hours until 8 p.m. Thursday so visitors can unwind at the Muse and still have time to enjoy the galleries.

Catered events at La Villa—including private parties, exhibit openings, and a fall gala for Philbrook members—are often the talk of the town as the staff unveils its regale. Although some people consider La Villa a destination, Stice holds true to his belief that the restaurant is simply part of the Philbrook experience. "You come to a place filled with art and creativity," he says. "We try to incorporate that with the food."

Diners order lunch with a side of art at Philbrook's La Villa restaurant.

The Rendezvous' fare has long been a favorite lunch draw for Tulsans.

Overlooking the Osage

On a recent afternoon at Gilcrease Museum's Rendezvous Restaurant, two silver-haired gents discussed the blue jay-as-glutton myth over steaming bowls of southwestern chili. Nearby, a group of well-coifed women nibbled on salads as they planned an elaborate fund-raiser, and two friends shared a piece of candy-coated cheesecake while singing the praises of lightly seasoned beef. Audience to it all was a bushy-tailed squirrel. With a voracious appetite and the cunning ability to stop even the most thought-provoking conversations, the little guy defended his seed turf against the attacks of his feathered enemies.

Aila Cramberg, restaurant manager, witnesses this scene nearly every day. Diners come to the Rendezvous Restaurant for its quality regional cuisine and find themselves surprisingly engrossed in nature's drama unfolding before their eyes. That's not to say the food doesn't create its own memorable impression; in fact, the Rendezvous' fare has long been a favorite lunch draw for Tulsans.

"Museum dining has changed a lot," says Cramberg. "It is no longer a sandwich wrapped to go." So while the squirrels, blue jays, sparrows, and other featherweights munch on an abundance of seeds (strategically placed to attract them to the window feeders), the restaurant guests indulge in crab cakes with Tanqueray-spiked cocktail sauce or farfalle chicken cuervo garnished with cilantro and glazed with a tequila cream sauce. Rendezvous' calling card, however, is

the buffalo burger, a half pound of lean ground bison capped with pepper jack cheese and bacon on an onion kaiser roll. Entree specials feature the chef's creation of the day along with the weekly chili and specialty desserts.

Popular sandwiches include the chicken gyro with sautéed peppers, onions, and diced cucumbers along with the Rendezvous "wrap of the week." Regulars often order the Yucatan salad with grilled chicken or shrimp served on baby mesclun lettuces and crowned with roasted corn, black beans, roma tomatoes, and mixed cheeses with a salsa dressing.

Operated by the Catering Connection, the Rendezvous Restaurant also caters many museum events and private parties in the expansive Vista Room, overlooking the Osage hills.

Although there may be a slight wait for food to accommodate traditional cooking methods and creative blending of ingredients, most visitors appear oblivious to it. Nature's theatrical troupe knows how to soften the passing of time, and the Rendezvous' fare is well worth the wait.

Hilltop Eatery

Dining on Persimmon Hill, one of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame's newest treasures, created quite a stir when it opened last March. Within six months, more than 12,000 guests had dined on apricot chicken with wild rice, white chicken lasagna, or one of the restaurant's buffets as they gazed across the Western States Plaza with its serene pool and fountains.

"We wanted a pretty place, something with an ambiance where visitors would walk in and say, 'Oh, we really didn't expect this,'" says Delores VanDeman, restaurant manager.

Surprises were in store for locals as well. Dining on Persimmon Hill's elegant menu and friendly attitude has quickly made it a favorite stop on the business lunch circuit. After only four months, the restaurant doubled in size to keep up with the crowds. The 200-seat restaurant is owned by Sid and Mary Beth Hardy, known for their popular Allisha's Gift Shop and Tea Room also in Oklahoma City.

Designed to suit both visitors anxious to continue their tour and lunch guests who want to linger, the restaurant offers a daily salad, baked potato, soup bar, and a themed food bar Tuesday through Saturday. Daily entrees remain consistent each week. (Try the popular apricot chicken with wild rice on Thursday.)

Saturday's "Picnickin' on Persimmon Hill" from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. features a barbecue buffet served on checkered tablecloths. Sandwiches and the restaurant's popular desserts, including a cobbler of the day and the decadent chocolate Ital-



Chef Pete Guinn and La Villa manager Novia Stice; opposite page, a delicious spread at Dining on Persimmon Hill



Dining on Persimmon Hill treats visitors to understated elegance.

ian cream cake, are served through 3:30 p.m. The restaurant also shows off its Sunday best with a full buffet featuring three entrees, creative salads, and spectacular desserts.

Little cowpokes don't have to rein in their taste buds, thanks to the Buckaroo's Menu with \$2 features like the "You Ol' Mangy Sidewinder," (half a turkey sandwich and chips) or "The Git Along Lil' Doggie," (hot dog and chips). Kids can even lasso a peanut butter and jelly sandwich as long as they ask to "Cut 'Em Off at the Pass."

Dining on Persimmon Hill treats visitors to understated elegance seasoned with the right blend of pioneer spirit. The focus is on the food and the view, rather than artwork and decorations. Waitresses wear black pioneer dresses and crisp white aprons, sunflowers adorn glass-topped tables, and western saddles are presented as works of art.

"From the West Coast to the East Coast, people are amazed at how good the food is and how economical," says VanDeman. "We have been surprised at the tremendous response to our opening, but it's been a pleasant surprise."

Edibly Educational

Oklahoma City's Omniplex is known for dishing out "edutainment," and its LeMel's Café by the Garden follows suit with a menu that goes beyond fast-order fare. Owner and manager Leeann Taylor says visitors are often surprised at the variety of foods and the pleasing atmosphere at the café, which offers patio dining overlooking a garden.

Open seven days a week, the café serves breakfast and lunch. Made-to-order omelets, pancakes, and the Red Eye breakfast burrito are popular with the staff and visitors. Deli sandwiches, a soup of the day, and daily entree specials ranging from pasta dishes to barbecue are featured, along with a vegetarian menu. In fact, the grilled portobello mushroom sandwich and veggie taco with black beans have converted many a meat lover, says Taylor.

"During the summer we serve up to 500 people a day, so we have to feature foods that are quick to prepare," she explains. "But we serve everything fresh and even make our own hamburger patties, which people love. You can usually get your order within five minutes."

Not only is LeMel's Café quick, it's also affordable. Entrees top out at \$4.25 for a grilled chicken dinner with a salad and baked potato. In-house catering is available for private gatherings, and the café staff routinely whips up pre-ordered lunches for the thousands of school kids who tour the Omniplex. Even *they* don't have to brown bag it these days. 

One of Chef Guinn's daily specials presented with typical Philbrook flair.

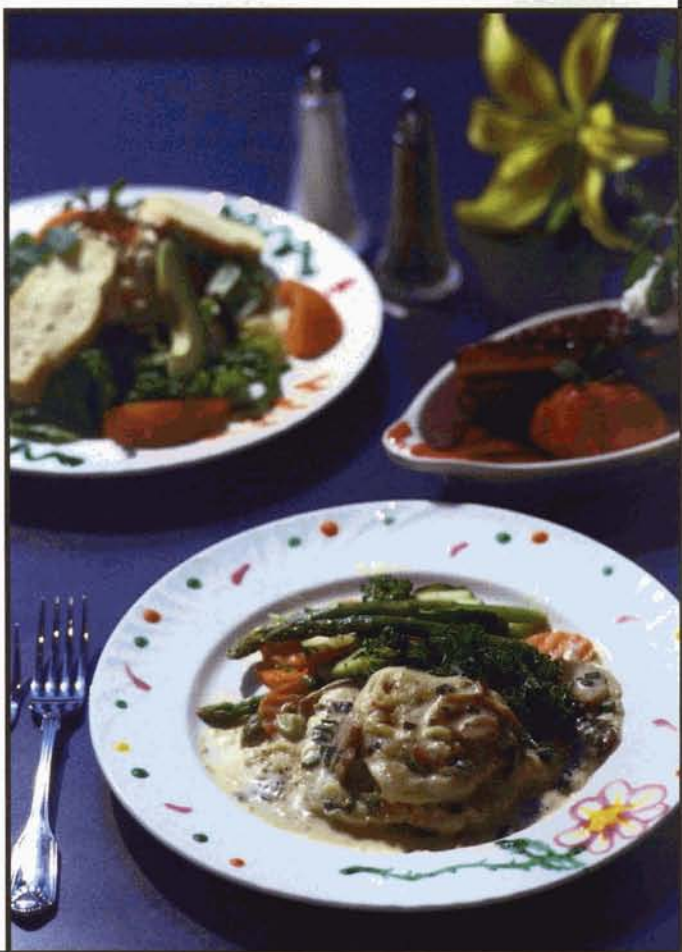
GETTING THERE

Philbrook's La Villa restaurant is located at 2727 S. Rockford Road in Tulsa. Sandwiches and wraps cost between \$4.50 and \$8, entrees from \$7.50 to \$10.50. Hours are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The Belle Arte Country Brunch is held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday. The Five O'Clock Muse is held from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday. Reservations are recommended. (918) 748-5392.

Rendezvous Restaurant at Gilcrease is located at 1400 Gilcrease Museum Road in Tulsa. Salads cost between \$5.95 and \$7.95, sandwiches between \$6.75 and \$8.25, and main courses between \$7.95 and \$8.95. The restaurant is open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, including the Sunday brunch buffet. The Sunday brunch draws large crowds, so reservations are recommended. (918) 596-2720.

Dining on Persimmon Hill at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame, 1700 N.E. 63rd Street in Oklahoma City, is open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Salad, potato, and soup bar costs \$5.95, sandwiches cost \$3.50, and daily entrees are \$6.95. Reservations are suggested, especially for the popular Sunday brunch. (405) 478-2250.

LeMel's Café by the Garden at the Omniplex, 2100 N.E. 52nd Street in Oklahoma City, is open seven days a week and serves breakfast from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday. Lunch runs from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and until 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. (405) 602-3740.



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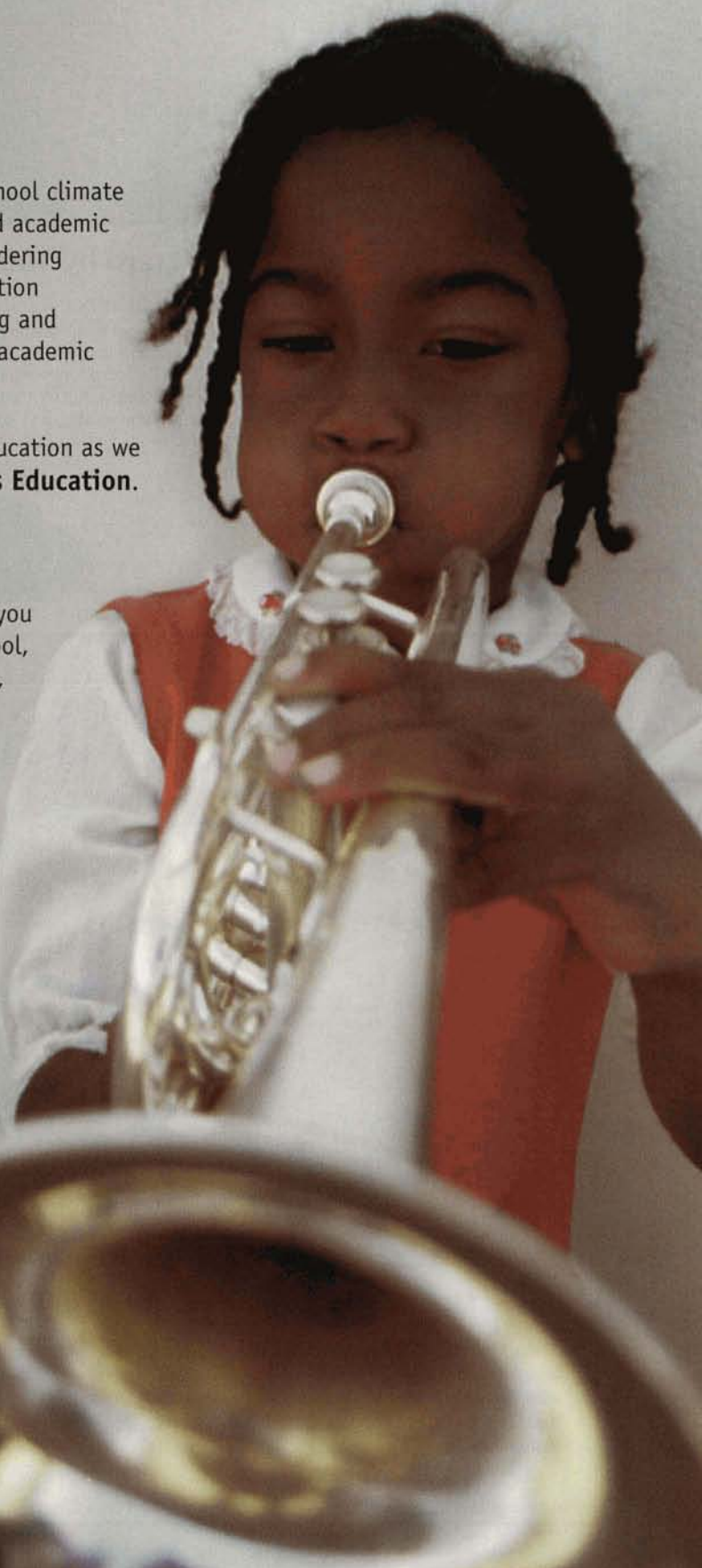
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Joe B. Barnes Regional Park
Midwest City, OK

*Featuring Men of Worth
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Dance • Pipebands • Athletics

Friday Night Ceilidh

March 19 • 7 p.m. • \$15

Midwest City Community Center

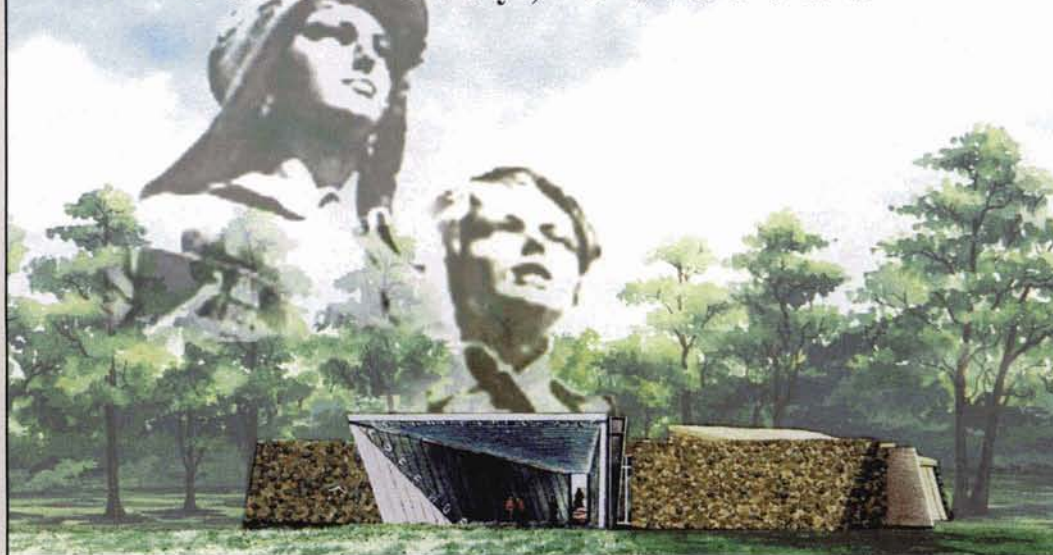
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March 5, 6, 7, 12 and 13
"Curious Savage"
Ponca Playhouse Production

March 26
Howard Hanger
Jazz Band

April 9
Mark Hammel
Blues Band

April 17
Ambassador Choir

April 30, May 1 and 2
Iris Festival

May 1
"Sounds of the Southwest"
with Sky Shivers
and Miss Kitty

May 7, 8, 9, 14 and 15
"Mikado" (musical)
Ponca Playhouse Production

June 5
Herb Festival



For more information: Ponca City Tourism, P.O. Box 1450 Ponca City, OK 74602 • (580) 763-8067 or (800) 475-4400 • www.poncacitynews.com/tourism



The Castle of Muskogee

1999 Events

February 13	Mardi Gras
April 15	The Bridge Cross-Cultural Festival
April 30	Renaissance Faire Masked Ball
May 1, 2 & 8, 9	Renaissance Faire
June 15 - July 5	Fireworks Sale
October 15, 16 & 22-31	Haunted Castle
November 13, 14	Boar's Heade Feaste
December 4, 5	Dickens' Christmas Bazaar
December 31	New Year's Eve 2000



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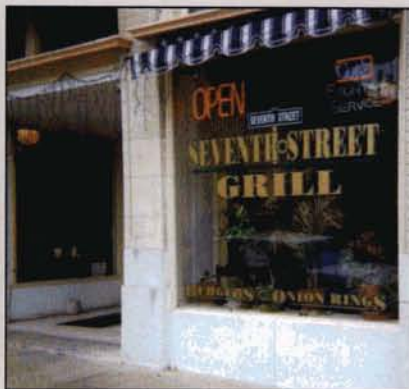
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- Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival (June 18-20)

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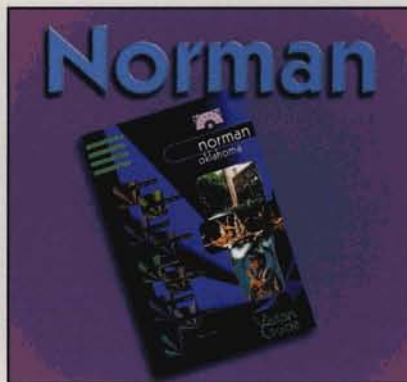
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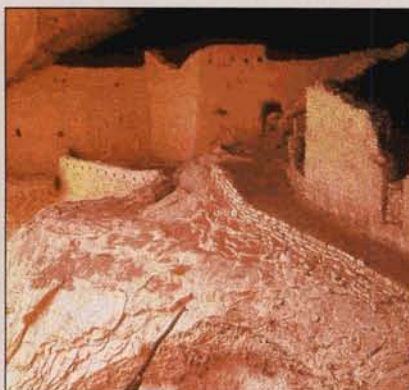


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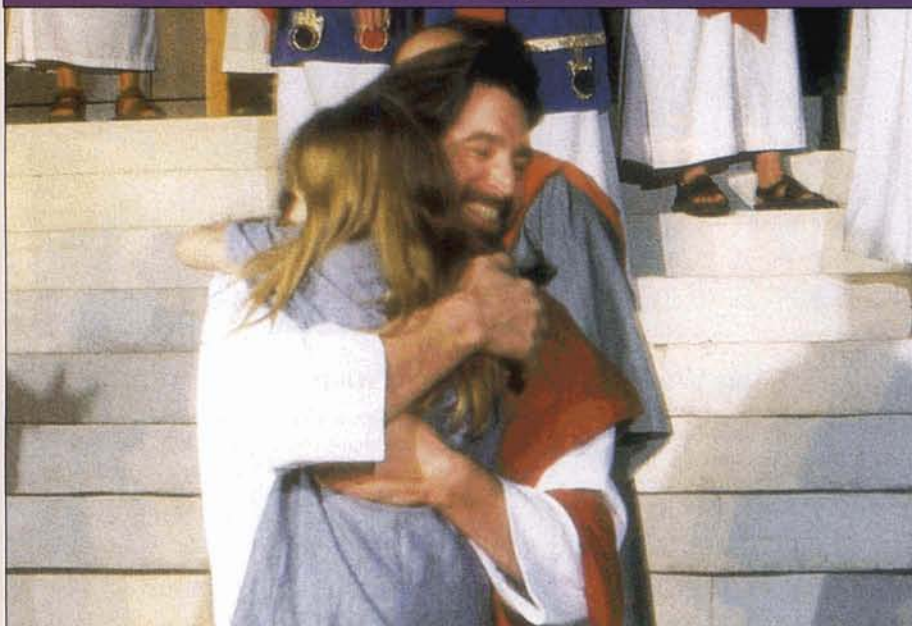
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Edmond Historical Society Mar 1-31: Augusta Metcalf: Oklahoma through the Eyes of a Pioneer, (405) 340-2771. Apr 17: Homestead Fair, (405) 340-0078

University of Central Oklahoma 100 N University Dr. Mar 10-12: South-Central American College Dance Festival, (405) 974-2315. Mar 26: The Lettermen, Mitchell Hall, (405) 974-3375. Mar 28: Pianist Jan Jirack, Mitchell Hall, (405) 340-3500

Mar 3 Oklahoma Community Orchestra Concert, OCUSA, (405) 478-3687

Apr 24 Watchable Wildlife Weekend, Arcadia Lake, (405) 259-4573

Apr 30-May 2 Edmond Downtown Arts Festival, Downtown, (405) 359-9408

ENID

ACROSS THE BOARD

Mar 5-7,11-13 Shadowlands, Gaslight Theatre, (580) 237-2494

Mar 13,14 Spring Concerts, EPSO Symphony Hall, (580) 237-9646

Mar 20 Steppin' Out for Charity, 123 W Maine, (580) 237-5667

Apr 10 Corvettes of Enid Expo VII, Garfield County Fairgrounds, (580) 237-7993

Apr 11,12 Pianist Mary Helen True, Washington & Broadway, (580) 234-2307

Apr 24 Walk America, Randolph & Grand, (580) 242-4631

Apr 28-May 1 67th Annual Tri-State Music Festival, Citywide, (580) 237-4964

Apr 29 Carson & Barnes Circus, Garfield County Fairgrounds, (580) 237-3511

LAWTON

ACROSS THE BOARD

Cameron University 2800 W Gore Blvd. Mar 3,4: Twentieth Century Music Festival, (580) 581-2531. Apr 15-18: False Admissions by Marivaux, (580) 581-2478

McMahon Auditorium 801 NW Ferris. Mar 13: Orchestral Favorites, (580) 248-2001. Mar 17-21: Octafest '99, (580) 236-0788.

Memorial by Samuel Bak is featured in "Witness and Legacy: Contemporary Art about the Holocaust," on display March 25 through May 23 at the Oklahoma City Art Museum, 3113 Pershing Boulevard, (405) 946-4477.

CALENDAR

Batter Up

APRIL 22

In 1889, Cottonwood Flats was nothing but a four-block flood plain in west Guthrie where land-hungry farmers could pitch tents for the night or soldiers could play a pick-up game of baseball. Sparked by the '89er celebrations in April, "Batter Up: An 1889 Baseball Game" will again draw locals to the Flats to see how our national pastime was once played. Fans can sit as close as the foul line when the Guthrie Dudes take on the Oklahoma City Pirates, named after an actual 1893 semi-pro team. Don't be surprised if the game doesn't look different, though. Players sport baggy pants and swing at softer baseballs, but the basic rules haven't changed. "Although many historical events typically evolve with time," says Mike Bruce with the sponsoring Oklahoma Territorial Museum, "baseball is one tradition which has remained very much the same."

—Kara Keeton

The game starts at 6:30 p.m. April 22, near the corner of Fifth Street and West College Avenue in Guthrie. Admission is free, but bring lawn chairs or a blanket for seating. (405) 282-1889.



CURT BOLES

Mike Longstreth suits up

Apr 16,17: Hansel & Gretel, (580) 357-2700.
Apr 24: Phantom of the Orchestra, (580) 355-1600

Mar 3,7 Ethos & Percussion Ensemble, Percussive Arts Society Museum, (580) 353-1455

Mar 26-28, Apr 2,3,9-11 Cheaper by the Dozen, John Denney Playhouse, (580) 355-1603

Mar 27 Denim, Dinin' & Dancin', Great Plains Coliseum, (580) 248-2001

Apr 9,10 Murder Mystery Dinner Theater, Officers Club, Fort Sill, (580) 355-1600

Apr 10,11 Annual Stamp & Coin Show, Hotel Lawtonian, (580) 355-7135

Apr 24 March of Dimes Walk America, Elmer Thomas Park, (580) 248-4898

MUSKOGEE

ACROSS THE BOARD

The Castle of Muskogee Apr 15: Bridge Cross-Cultural Festival. Apr 30: Renaissance Faire Masked Ball, (918) 687-3625

Civic Center 425 Boston. Mar 3: Lions Club Pancake Breakfast, (918) 687-9131. Apr 17: Tour through the Black Towns, (918) 684-6359. Apr 17,18: ABWA Arts & Crafts Show, (918) 687-1000

Five Civilized Tribes Museum Agency Hill Honor Heights Dr. Mar 7-31: Student Art Show. Apr 10,11: Art under the Oaks Gallery Exhibit & Indian Market, (918) 683-1701

Mar 4-7 Strawberry Junction Arts & Crafts, Arrowhead Mall, (918) 683-4100

Mar 27 Wild Onion Dinner, Muskogee Creek Indian Community Center, (918) 682-6912

Apr 3 Strawberry Festival, Memorial Christian Church, (918) 687-1361

Apr 3,4 Cat Fancier's Cat Show, Fairgrounds, (918) 687-4406

Apr 3-30 Azalea Festival, Honor Heights Park, (918) 684-6302

Apr 9,10 Pure Quilting from the Heart, St. Paul United Methodist Church, (918) 733-4243

Apr 23-25,30-May 2 Oliver, Muskogee Little Theatre, (918) 687-1756

NORMAN

ACROSS THE BOARD

Sooner Theatre 101 E Main. Mar 12: Classical Guitarist Robert Bluestone, (405) 321-9600. Apr 15-18: Blue Beard's Castle, (405) 364-8962

Tribes Gallery 307 E Main. Mar 1-31: All Male Exhibit. Apr 1-30: Legendary Kiowa Artist Exhibit & Sale, (405) 329-4442

Mar 1-7 Marsden Hartley: American Modern, Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, OU, (405) 325-3272

Mar 27 Arts Classic Run & Bike Tour, Memorial Stadium, OU, (405) 325-5173

Mar 28 Festival of Spirituals, St. Thomas

More University Parish, (405) 364-8962

Apr 3 Easter Egg Hunt, Andrews Park, (405) 366-5472

Apr 9-11 Medieval Fair, Brandt Park Duck Pond, OU, (405) 288-2536

Apr 10 Spring Benefit Gourd Dance, 12th Avenue Recreation Center, (405) 552-3803

Apr 17 '89er Days Parade, Main Street, (405) 321-5471

Apr 24-May 23 Sylvie Granatelli Ceramics Exhibit, Firehouse Art Center, (405) 329-4523

OKLAHOMA CITY

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

IAO Artspace 1 N Hudson. Mar 6-20: Biting the Apple. Apr 10-May 29: Prairie Fire & Mixed Media '99, (405) 232-6060

Oklahoma City Art Museum 3113 Pershing Blvd. Mar 1-7: Over There: Views of France, 1840-1940. Mar 1-14: Age of Opulence: Arts of the Baroque. April 8,15,22,29: Early Jewish Cinema, (405) 946-4477

Omniplex 2100 NE 52nd. Mar 1-27: Young Talent in Oklahoma, (405) 602-6664. Mar 1-28: Everlasting Fire: The Seminoles of Oklahoma. Apr 5-May 30: Meso-American Culture, (405) 427-5228. Apr 10-May 30: Fiberworks '99: 21st Annual Fiber Art Show, (405) 602-3717

Apr 24-May 23 Oklahoma Painting Biennial V, City Arts Center, (405) 951-0000

ON THE STAGE

Lyric Theatre 4444 Classen Blvd. Mar 4-6,11-13: Little Shop of Horrors. Apr 16,17: Pianist Louis Lortie. Apr 29-May 1,6-8: The Complete History of America (Abridged). (405) 524-9312

Myriad Convention Center 1 Myriad Gardens. Mar 18-21: Sesame Street Live. Mar 26: Johnny Mathis. Apr 10: Rolling Stones. Apr 24: Cece Winans. (405) 297-3300

Oklahoma Christian University 2501 E Memorial Rd. Mar 2,4-6: The Miser. Mar 14: Violinist Corey Cerovsek. Mar 21: Jean Rife, Horn. Mar 22: Band Concert. Apr 9: Marriage of Figaro. Apr 15: String Ensemble Concert. Apr 16,17: Wait until Dark. Apr 22: Chorale Concert, (405) 425-5130. Apr 30,May 1: Winnie the Pooh, Judd Theatre, (405) 340-4481

Oklahoma City University 2501 N Blackwelder. Mar 4-7: The Road to Mecca. Mar 8: Oklahoma Youth Orchestra Spring Concert, Petree Recital Hall, (405) 232-1199. Mar 11-13: American Spirit Dance Company. Mar 25-28: Ballet Oklahoma: Swan Lake, Act II, Valentine Suites & Peter & the Wolf, (405) 297-3000. Apr 8-11: Private Lives. Apr 23-25: Kismet. Apr 29-May 2: Ballet Oklahoma: A Midsummer Night's Dream, (405) 521-5227



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Mar 6 Soprano Sadie Davis, Northwest Classen High School, (405) 424-2552

Mar 10-14 I Hate Hamlet, Stage Center, (405) 270-4801

Mar 13,14 Canterbury Kaleidoscope, First Presbyterian Church, (405) 232-7464

Mar 19,20 Prairie Dance Theatre & Friends Concert, Kirkpatrick Center Theatre, (405) 424-2249

Mar 19-Apr 10 The Cover of Life, Stage Center, (405) 232-6500

Mar 26 Adult Contemporary Pianist Kerri Sherwood, Fine Arts Auditorium, Yukon, (405) 262-1405

Mar 28 Ambassador's Concert Choir, First Baptist Church, (405) 478-3344

Mar 28 Canterbury Children's Chorus: Children Are Sacred, Messiah Lutheran Church, (405) 232-7464

Mar 30-Apr 11 The Ugly Duckling, Oklahoma Children's Theater, (405) 951-0000

Apr 17,18 Once in a Lifetime, Northwest Classen High School, (405) 424-2552

Apr 18 Canterbury Children's Chorus: When I Sing, Westminster Presbyterian Church, (405) 232-7464

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

Apr 20-25 1999 Festival of the Arts, Downtown, (405) 297-3995

SPECIAL EVENTS

Mar 13 Oklahoma Book Award Ceremony, Nat'l Cowboy Hall of Fame, (405) 521-2502

Mar 25,26 L'Amico Fritz Staged Reading, OCU, (405) 521-5227

Apr 3 Easter on the the Prairie, Kirkpatrick Homestead, Yukon, (405) 354-2362

RUNS, RIDES, & WALKS

Apr 10,11 Redbud Classic, 63rd & Penn, (405) 842-8295

LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

Myriad Botanical Gardens Mar 6: Spring Gardening Symposium. Apr 2,3: Annual Plant & Garden Sale. Apr 17-Aug 15: Native American Gardening. (405) 297-3995

Nat'l Cowboy Hall of Fame 1700 NE 63rd. Mar 5: Paper Conservation Workshop. Mar 15-19: Artists' Art School. Mar 16: Tuesdays at Sundown. Mar 20: Cowboy Poetry Gathering, (405) 478-2250.

Omniplex 2100 NE 52nd. Apr 1-27: Herbs in the Kitchen, Kirkpatrick Gardens, (405) 602-6664. Apr 10,11: Fiberworks '99 Work-

shop: Designing the Mahotan Way, (405) 997-5411

Mar 26,27 China Painting: The Light of My Life, Biltmore Hotel, (405) 521-1234

Mar 31 Reading by U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky, Petree Recital Hall, OCU, (405) 842-2900

STILLWATER

ACROSS THE BOARD

Oklahoma State University 132 Seretean Center. Mar 4-7: *Betrayal*, Gundersen Theatre, (405) 744-6509. Mar 9: President's Masterworks Concert. Mar 11,30: Faculty Recital. Apr 10: Jazz Ensemble. Apr 14: Chamber Ensemble Recital. Apr 15: Wind Ensemble. Apr 17: Percussion Ensemble. Apr 18: Concert Chorale & Chamber Choir. Apr 22: Symphony Orchestra. Apr 24: Trombone Choir. Apr 25: Women's Choir & University Singers. Apr 29: Symphonic & Concert Bands. (405) 744-6133

Mar 9 Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs, Community Center, (405) 364-8962

TAHLEQUAH

ACROSS THE BOARD

Elephant Rock Nature Park Apr 10: Elephant Rock's Dogwood Day. Apr 24: 2nd Annual Earth Day Celebration, (918) 456-4215

Northeastern State University Center for the Performing Arts. Mar 2: *Beauty & the Beast*, (918) 456-5511. Apr 18: *Romancing the Movies: Timeless Music from the Silver Screen*, (918) 456-5511, ext. 4500

Mar 20-28 Spring Break Fun, Sequoyah State Park, (918) 772-2545

Mar 25-27, Apr 1-3,8-10 ACT Cherokee County Student Art Show, BancFirst Building, (918) 456-4228

Apr 29,30 12th Annual Indian Territory Days, Willis Road, (918) 456-6007

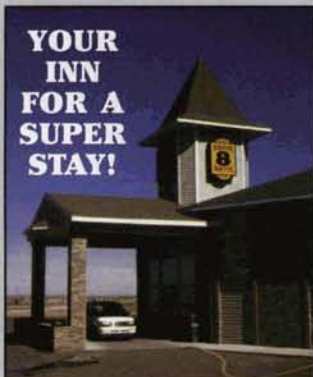
TULSA

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Gilcrease Museum 1400 Gilcrease Museum Rd. Mar 1-May 2: *Symbols of Faith & Belief: Art of the Native American Church*. Mar 1-May 2: *Norman Rockwell, An American Portrait*. Apr 30-June 27: *Gilcrease Rendezvous 1999*. (918) 596-2705

Philbrook Museum of Art 2727 S Rockford Rd. Mar 1-14: *Pure Vision: American Bead Artists*. Mar 1-May 2: *George Bellows: The War Series*. Mar 1-May 9: *Contemporary Screenprints from the Permanent Collection*. Apr 19-21: *Philbrook: The Perfect Setting*. Apr 24-June 20: *Alphonse Mucha: The Spirit of Art Nouveau*. (918) 748-5385

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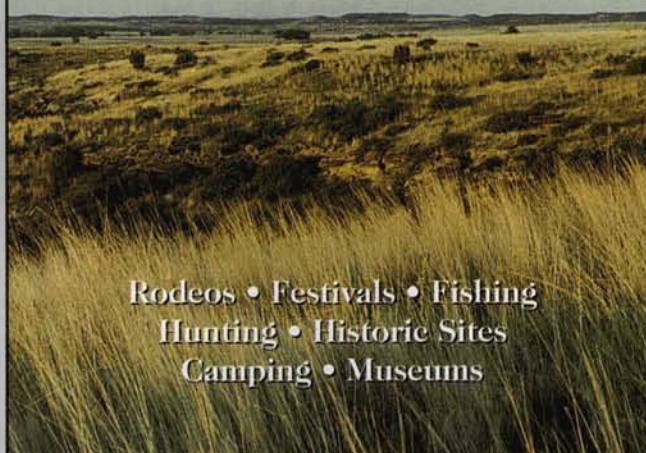
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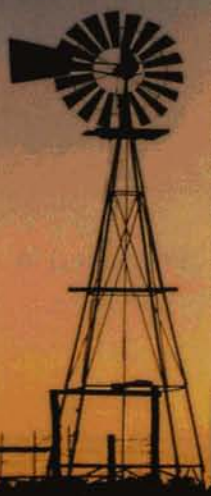
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April 23, 1999

April 24, 1999

April 29-May 2, 1999

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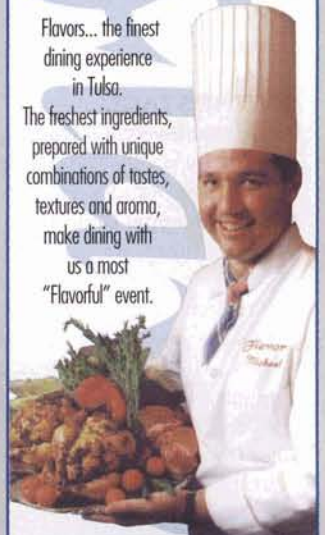


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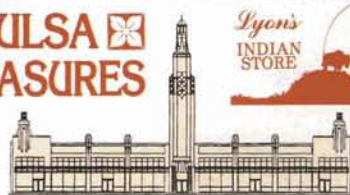
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CALENDAR

Mar 1-28 Victorian Needle Art & Fashion, Internat'l Linen Registry Foundation Needle Art Museum, Promenade Mall, (918) 622-5223

ON THE STAGE

Heller Theatre 5328 S Wheeling. Mar 26: The Easter Bunny Goes Amuck! Apr 16: The Tax Man Taketh Away! (918) 746-5065

Trinity Episcopal Church 501 S Cincinnati. Mar 2: Organist Casey Cantwell. Mar 9: The Sonny Gray Trio. Mar 16: Irish Music with Stephanie Swinnea. Mar 23: Coventry Chorale. Mar 30: TU Vocal Music. Apr 13: Tulsa Children's Chorus. Apr 20: The Magic Flute. Apr 27: Soprano Elizabeth Koch. (918) 582-4128

Tulsa Community College Southeast Campus 81st St & U.S. 169. Mar 12,13: Manhattan Rhythm Kings. Apr 23,24: Sinfonia: Salute to a Century. (918) 595-7777

Tulsa Performing Arts Center 110 E 2nd St. Mar 5: Patrick Street. Mar 6: A Little Princess. Mar 13-20: An Inspector Calls, (918) 596-7111. Mar 16: Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo. Mar 19,20: Roberta Flack. Mar 21: The American String Quartet, (918) 438-2582. Mar 26,27: Masterworks VI, (918) 747-7445. Mar 30-Apr 4: Footloose. Apr 9-11: Swan Lake, (918) 749-6006. Apr 9-17: Death of a Salesman. Apr 10: The House at Pooh Corner. Apr 16,17: Ray Charles, (918) 747-7473. Apr 18: The Boys Choir of Harlem. Apr 24: Brave Old World. Apr 30-May 8: You Can't Take It with You, (918) 596-7122

University of Tulsa 600 S College Ave, Kendall Hall. Apr 12,13: TU Opera Theatre. Apr 22-May 1: Anything Goes. (918) 631-2567

Mar 6,11,13 Tulsa Opera: Dialogues of the Carmelites, Third & Cincinnati, (918) 582-4035

Mar 12 TGI Chamber Classics: Charles Greenwell, Holland Hall, (918) 747-7445

Mar 14 Music on Exhibit III, Philbrook Museum of Art, (918) 747-7445

Mar 16 Stomp, Brady Theatre, (918) 254-8050

Mar 20 The American String Quartet, Harwelden Theater, (918) 438-2582

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

Mar 12-14 Tulsa Indian Art Festival, Greenwood Cultural Center, (918) 838-3875

Apr 8-11 Beethoven Festival, Greenwood Cultural Center & Philbrook Museum, (918) 747-7445

Apr 22-25 Antiques & Collectibles Show, Eastland Mall, (918) 438-3401

SPECIAL EVENTS

Expo Square 4101 E 21st St. Mar 5-7: 29th Annual Children's Medical Center Arts & Crafts Festival, (918) 743-3520. Mar 11-14: 1999 Greater Tulsa Home & Garden Show, (918) 257-4234. Mar 12-14: Greater Tulsa Antiques Show, (918) 682-7420.

Mar 20,21 Tulsa Depression Era Glass Club Show & Sale, Convention Center, (918) 251-3072

Apr 17,18 49th Annual Spring Garden Tour, Tulsa Garden Center, (918) 746-5125

Apr 19 Tulsa's Salvation Army Annual Benefit Dinner featuring Walter Cronkite, Adams Mark Hotel, (918) 586-8303

LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

Mar 15: Armchair Traveler Series: Chile & Hawaii, Tulsa Performing Arts Center, (918) 596-7111

OUT & ABOUT

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Mar 2-27 Watercolor Oklahoma XIII, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry, (405) 336-2405

Mar 19-May 2 Tibetan Portrait: A Commitment to Compassion, Museum in the Price Tower Arts Center, Bartlesville, (918) 336-4949

Apr 6-30 Gallery Show by Jim Powers, Plains Indians & Pioneers Museum, Woodward, (580) 256-6136

Apr 30-May 2 Chisholm Trail Round-up Art Show, Simmons Center, Duncan, (580) 255-5556

DRAMA

Mar 4-7,11-13 The Last Night of Ballyhoo, Pollard Theatre, Guthrie, (405) 726-2341

Mar 5-7 Comedy, City Hall Theater, Hobart, (580) 726-2341

Mar 5-7,12,13 Curious Savage, Poncan Theatre, Ponca City, (580) 765-5360

Mar 19 George & Ira, Goddard Center, Ardmore, (580) 226-0909

Mar 19 Meet Me in St. Louis, High School Auditorium, Idabel, (580) 286-9552

Mar 31 Children's Theatre Series: Frogs, Lizards, Orbs & Slinkys, Simmons Center, Duncan, (580) 252-2900

Apr 3,4 Kenton Easter Pageant, 2 mi. E of town on S. H. 325, Kenton, (580) 261-7413

Apr 9-11,16,17 Daughters of the Lone Star State, Community Center, Sapulpa, (918) 227-2169

Apr 9-18 William Inge's Picnic, Community Playhouse, Broken Arrow, (918) 258-0077

Apr 15-17,23-25 A Tuna Christmas, Boomtown Theater, Drumright, (918) 352-2236

Apr 30-May 2,6-8 The Miracle Worker, Little Theatre, Shawnee, (405) 275-2805

MUSIC & DANCE

Mar 4 Rose Stone Trio, Southwest Playhouse & Fine Arts Center, Clinton, (580) 323-4448

Mar 5 Concerto-Aria Concert, Yarbrough Auditorium, OBU, Shawnee, (405) 878-2305

Mar 7 Symphonic Band Concert, NWOSU campus, Alva, (580) 327-1647

Mar 13 Classical Concert, Community Center, Bartlesville, (918) 336-2787

Mar 13 United States Navy Band Sea Chanters, Susan Powell Auditorium, Elk City, (580) 225-1054

Mar 19,20 Bluegrass Jam, Holiday Inn at I-40 & S Main St, Elk City, (580) 225-4139

Mar 19-21,25-27 Sister Amnesia's Country Western Nunsense Jamboree, Little Theatre, Shawnee, (405) 275-0266

Mar 23 Coulter Phillips Ensemble, Fine Arts Recital Hall, SWOSU, Weatherford, (580) 924-0121, ext. 2244

Mar 23 Frank "Pancho" Romero: Trumpet, Raley Chapel, OBU, Shawnee, (405) 878-2305

Mar 26 Howard Sanger Jazz Band, Poncan Theatre, Ponca City, (580) 765-0943

Mar 26,27 Early-Bird Bluegrass Music Show, OSU Extension Auditorium, Hugo, (580) 326-5598

Mar 29 Count Basie Orchestra, NWOSU, Alva, (580) 327-1700

Apr 13 Canterbury Chamber Choir, Arts Theatre, Woodward, (580) 256-7120

Apr 15-17 Far West Fiddlers Spring Convention, Holiday Inn at I-40 & S Main St, Elk City, (580) 225-1391

RODEO & HORSE EVENTS

Lazy E Arena Guthrie. Mar 12-14: Timed Event Championship of the World. Apr 23,24: '89er Days Rodeo, (405) 282-7433

Mar 1-6 Kay County Stock Show, Newkirk, (580) 363-1260

Mar 4-6 Major County Spring Livestock Show, Fairview, (580) 227-3708

Apr 8-10 Southwestern Oklahoma State University Rodeo, Don Mitchell Rodeo Arena, Rader Park, Weatherford, (580) 774-3063

Apr 24,25 Oklahoma Dressage Horse Show, Heart of Oklahoma Expo Center, Shawnee, (405) 348-3738

Apr 30-May 2 Duvall Champion Steer Wrestling Jackpot, Duvall Arena, Checotah, (918) 473-2653

INDIAN EVENTS

Apr 16-18 Choctaw Intertribal Powwow, Bryan County Fairgrounds, Durant, (580) 924-9411

Apr 22-24 Talihina Indian Festival, High School, (918) 567-2539

Apr 30-May 2 Native American Cultural Festival, 3 mi. S of town on S.H. 10, Bragg, (918) 487-5196

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

Mar 6 Hamfest, Civic Center, Elk City, (580) 225-2666

Mar 6-9 Rooster Days Festival, Central Park, Broken Arrow, (918) 251-1777

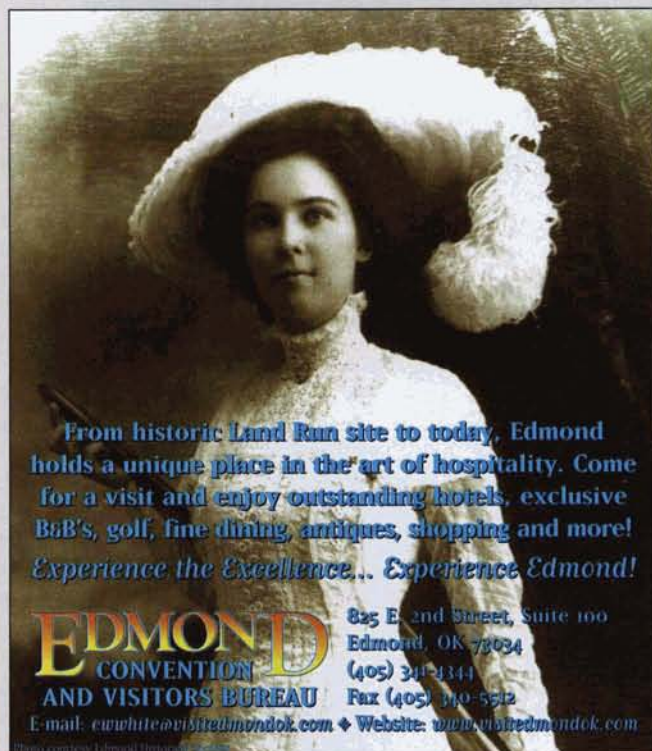
Mar 20 Scottish Heritage Festival, Joe Barnes Reg'l Park, Midwest City, (405) 737-4962



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- Apr 3 Jenks Herb'n Garden Festival**, "A" & 2nd Streets, Jenks, (918) 299-3676
- Apr 3,4 Spring Arts & Crafts Festival**, Turner Falls Park, Davis, (580) 369-2402
- Apr 8-10 Redbud Jazz Festival**, 1220 E Grand, Tonkawa, (580) 628-2220
- Apr 10 Southeastern Swings Jazz Fest**, Montgomery Auditorium, SOSU, Durant, (580) 924-0121, ext. 2244
- Apr 16-18 Old Fort Days Heritage Festival**, Fort Gibson Historic Site, (918) 478-4088
- Apr 22-24 '89er Celebration**, Downtown, Lexington, (405) 527-6315
- Apr 23,24 Spring Midwest Bluegrass Festival**, Industrial Park, Harrah, (405) 391-2338
- Apr 30-May 2 Crystal Festival & Birding Celebration**, Grand Avenue, Cherokee, (580) 596-3053
- Apr 30-May 2 Fort Supply Fest**, Citywide, (580) 766-3211
- Apr 30-May 2 Iris Festival**, Downtown, Ponca City, (580) 763-8082

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Mar 5-7 Grand Lake Boat & Sports Show**, Main & 18th Streets, Grove, (918) 786-2289
- Mar 6 Main Street Quilters Tea**, Newkirk, (580) 363-1260
- Mar 6,13 Eagle Watch**, Beavers Bend Nature Center, Broken Bow, (580) 494-6556
- Mar 20 Annual Family Kite Flite Day**, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro, (918) 962-2062
- Mar 20 Fly-A-Kite Saturday**, 3 mi. S of town on S.H. 10, Braggs, (918) 487-5196
- Mar 20 Kite Flight & Family Fun Day**, Sequoyah State Park, Wagoner, (918) 772-2545
- Mar 20 Spring Craft Show**, Alfalfa County Fair Exhibit Building, Cherokee, (580) 596-2368
- Mar 20-28 Spring Break Fun**, Western Hills, Wagoner, (918) 772-2545
- Mar 27 City of Moore Easter Egg Hunt**, 12th Street Park, (405) 793-5090
- Mar 27 Family Kite Flying Day**, Lake Wister State Park, Wister, (918) 655-7886
- Mar 27 Seventh Annual Bob Lowe Memorial Toy Tractor Show**, Grady County Fairgrounds, Chickasha, (405) 222-5421
- Mar 27,28 Garland Arts & Crafts Show**, Heart of Oklahoma Expo Center, Shawnee, (405) 339-2511
- Mar 27,28 Rattlesnake Hunt**, Main Street & Downtown, Waurika, (580) 228-2081
- Mar 27,28 Westlake Recreation Kite Festival & Craft Show**, 2 mi. W of town on U.S. 412, Lahoma, (580) 796-2403
- Mar 28 Kiwanis Easter Egg Hunt**, Town Park, Arnett, (580) 885-7833
- Apr 3 Ardmoredillo Chili Cook-off**, Downtown, Ardmore, (580) 226-6246

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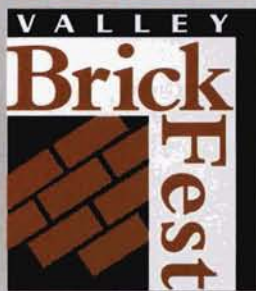
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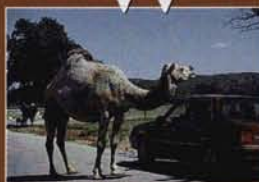
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CALENDAR

Apr 3 Chamber's Easter Egg Hunt, Gregory Park, Cordell, (580) 832-3538

Apr 3 Easter Egg Hunt, Redbud Park, Marlow, (580) 658-2212

Apr 3 Easter Egg Hunt, High School, Waynoka, (580) 824-4741

Apr 3 Lake Texoma Resort & Park's Easter Weekend, Kingston, (580) 564-2311, ext. 170

Apr 3 Easter Egg Hunt, Heavener Runestone State Park, Heavener, (918) 653-2241

Apr 9-11 Watchable Wildlife Weekend, Nature Center at Texoma Resort, Kingston, (580) 564-2311

Apr 10-18 Cimarron Territory Celebration & World Cow Chip Throwing Championship, County Fairgrounds, Beaver, (580) 625-4726

Apr 12 Annual Sunrise Easter Breakfast with "Cowboy Camp," Pawnee Bill Ranch, Pawnee, (580) 762-2513

Apr 16,17 Prairie City Days, Main Street, Marshall, (580) 935-6814

Apr 16-18 Rattlesnake Roundup, E Evans Ave, Apache, (580) 588-2880

Apr 17 11th Annual Fifties Bash, Downtown, Okmulgee, (800) 355-5552

Apr 17 Cheyenne-Arapaho Pioneer Days, Downtown, Cordell, (580) 832-3538

Apr 17 Herbal Affair, Downtown, Sand Springs, (918) 246-2561

Apr 17 Hobo Dinner & Pie Auction, Katy Depot, Checotah, (918) 473-6377

Apr 23,24 Pioneer Days Celebration, West Broadway, Okemah, (918) 623-2440

Apr 23-25 KIOI Expo '99, County Fairgrounds, Woodward, (580) 256-4101

Apr 24 Remember When, Downtown, Sulphur, (580) 622-6246

Apr 28-May 1 Loyalty Day Celebration, Downtown, Westville, (918) 723-3243

Apr 30-May 2 Rattlesnake Roundup, S.H. 8 & 51, Okeene, (800) 447-2698

RUNS, RIDES, & WALKS

Mar 20 Buckle of the Wheat Belt Classic, 320 N Main St, Kingfisher, (405) 375-4209

Mar 20,21 Western Okie Mountain Bike Classic, Lakeview & Washington Lake, Elk City, (580) 225-2453

Apr 3 Warriors Children's Run, County Fairgrounds, Pawnee, (918) 762-2493

Apr 9-11 OETRA Pleasure Ride, Arrowhead State Park, Eufaula, (918) 339-2204

Apr 17 March for Parks, Quartz Mountain State Park's Shelter No. 1, Lone Wolf, (580) 563-2238

Apr 24,25 Mountain Challenge, Downtown, Medicine Park, (580) 529-2626

LIVING HISTORY

Mar 20,21 Spring Equinox Night Walk, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro, (918) 962-2062

Mar 31-Apr 4 Annual Fur Trade-Era Rendezvous, Fort Washita Historic Site, Durant, (580) 924-6502

LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

Chisholm Trail Museum 605 Zellers Ave, Kingfisher. Mar 13: Mesopotamia: Empires of Babylon, Syria, and Ancient Sumer. Mar 20: Living History of the 1880s. Apr 3: Double-Wall Basket Weaving. Apr 17: Tatting Workshop. Apr 24: Egypt, Sinai & Nigev. (405) 375-5176

Pawnee Bill Ranch .5 mi. W on U.S. 64, Pawnee. Mar 13: Buckskin Makin' Seminar. Mar 27: Flint Knapping Seminar. Mar 27: Square-Handle Egg Basket Weaving Workshop. (918) 762-2513

Mar 18 Nadine Strossen on Women's Empowerment, Fine Arts Center, Weatherford, (580) 774-3063



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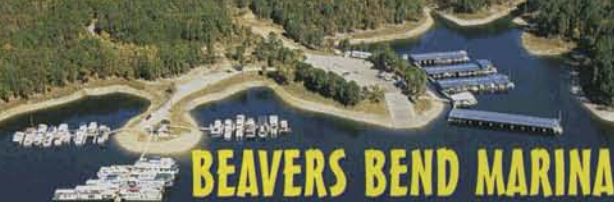
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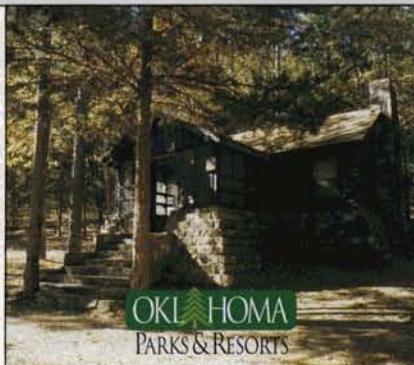
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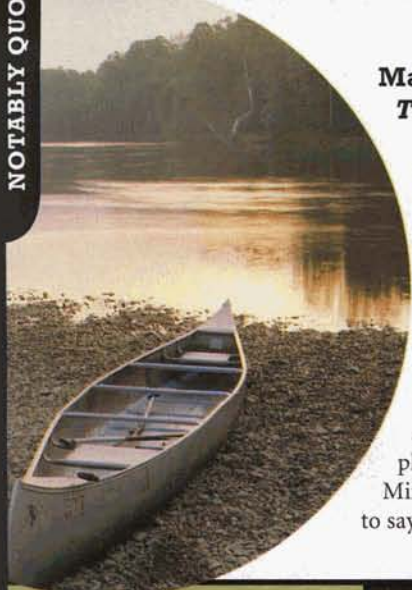
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What a Trip!

NOTABLY QUOTED

Oklahomans on Their Favorite Travel Spot

Reported by Kelly Crow



Mark Singer, staff writer for *The New Yorker*

I recall my father declaiming not quite thirty years ago as we admired a sunset across the harbor from Shangri-La on Grand Lake o' the Cherokees, that this was the most beautiful spot on earth. And I recall thinking, *I love my dad, but this old boy needs to get out of town more.* I tend to prefer the views from Pantelleria (a volcanic island off the coast of Tunisia) or Block Island, Rhode Island (from the southeastern lighthouse), or a dozen or so places I've camped while canoeing on the Minnesota-Ontario boundary lakes—which is to say I like my water blue rather than brown.

Eddie Sutton, OSU men's basketball coach

I had a special experience this past summer when my wife, Patsy, and I took our six-year-old grandson, Hunter, to New York City. We visited the Statue of Liberty, rode the subway, saw dinosaurs at the American Museum of Natural History, and saw *The Lion King* and *Beauty and the Beast* on Broadway. To see New York City through a child's eyes was so rewarding.



George Nigh, former Oklahoma governor

The best trips I ever took were with a group of friends called the Groovy Lodge Group. We'd rent out an entire state lodge or a whole wing on a weekend. It was fun because it was just us.

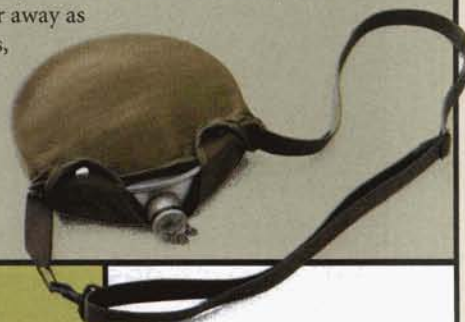


Currie Ballard, historian, Langston University

Travel should be an adventure to one's dreams. Both of my trips to the Bahamas were truly a dream. The hospitality of the people is a major part of the equation to happiness in the Bahamas. There's also the blue ocean and white sand.

Joy Harjo, poet and musician

Twice in the last ten years I was able to take off, and when I did, I got as far away as I could from airplanes, hotels, and people, to the heart of the Wind River Mountains in Wyoming.



Matt Holliday, Stillwater native and a Colorado Rockies' rookie

I spent two or three weeks in Canada last year on the Junior National Baseball team, and I remember thinking the scenery was so nice, all those streams and huge trees. I had never seen Canada before, but we traveled by bus all the way from Toronto to New Brunswick.



John Bennett Herrington, astronaut

My wife and I spent a few days at Castelbouc in the south of France. It is a beautiful little village at the base of a castle dating back to the Crusades.

Greg Pyle, Chief of the Choctaw Nation

I love to go canoeing down the Little River near Nashoba, Oklahoma. It's really quiet and so beautiful.

ayne Coyne, lead singer of the Flaming Lips

Since I travel more than I care to, I often end up being exactly where you would not want to be. I've been in countless "Storms of the Century," pulled into San Francisco the day after the big earthquake in '89, and was actually scheduled to be on TWA Flight 800. All these accidental meetings make my life seem like that of an adventurer. But my favorite trip so far has to be coming across the northern lights while driving through an otherwise unimpressive stretch of Canada.



We're rolling out the welcome mats.

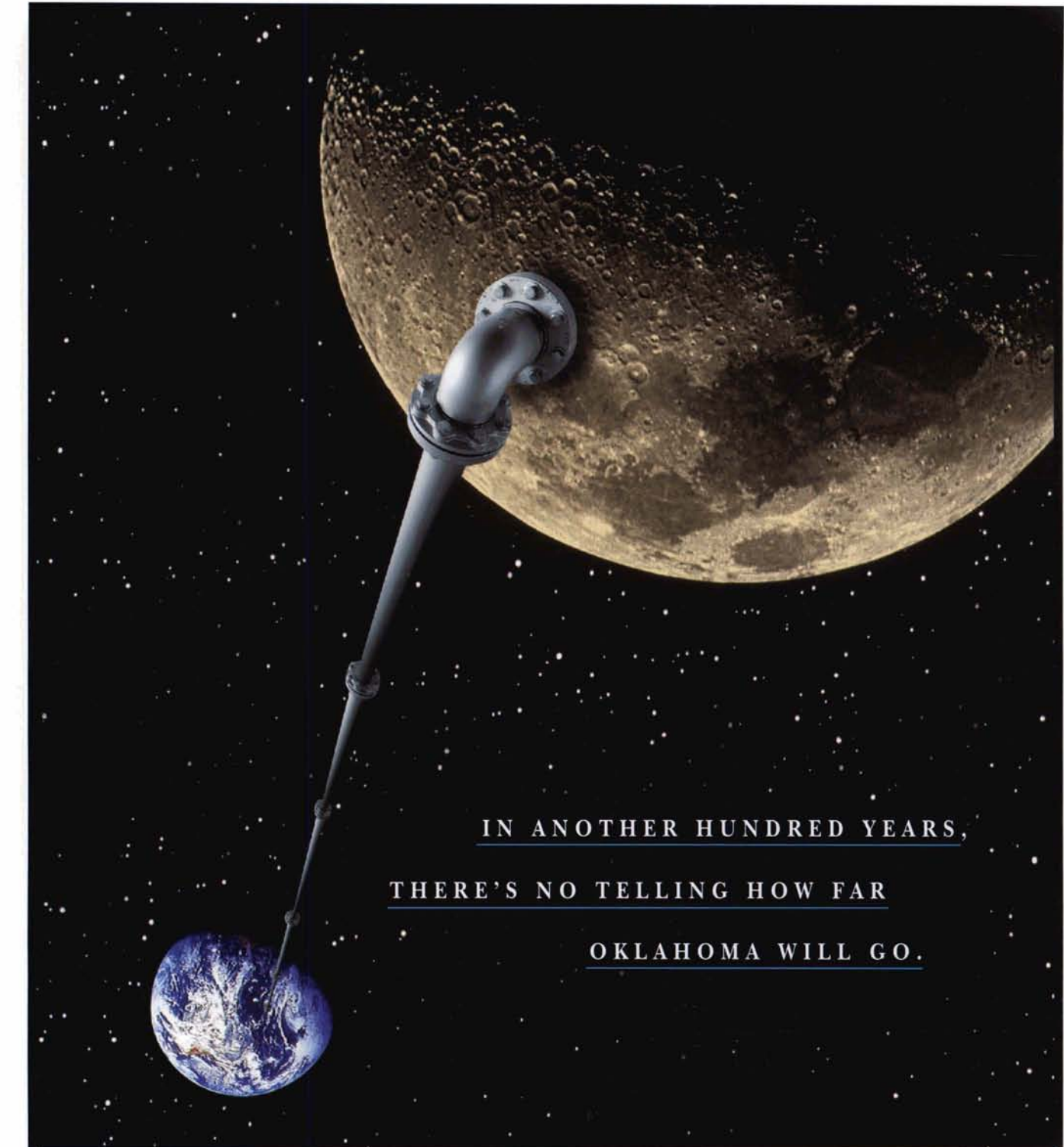


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